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Japan

Prime Minister To Address UN General Assembly

OW2409073193 Tokyo KYODO in English 0656 GMT 24 Sep 93

[Text] Tokyo, Sept. 24 KYODO—Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa and Foreign Minister Tsutomu Hata will leave Tokyo on Saturday [25 September] for New York to attend the United Nations General Assembly. Hosokawa's first overseas trip since his seven-party coalition took power in August, ending the 38-year rule of the Liberal Democratic Party (LDP), is his first chance to demonstrate his diplomatic skills.

Hosokawa, a former governor of the southern Japan prefecture of Kumamoto, will address the UN assembly on Monday to spell out his government's UN policy, Japanese officials said.

Later the same day he has his first summit meeting with U.S. President Bill Clinton, also a former state governor, and a separate meeting with UN Secretary General Butrus Butrus-Ghali. Hata will also attend the two meetings.

Hosokawa also plans to meet Brazilian President Itamar Franco and Colombian President Cesar Gaviria Trujillo before returning to Japan on Tuesday.

In his 20-minute speech in English on the opening day of the UN session, Hosokawa will touch on such topics as Japan's bid for a permanent seat on the UN Security Council, contributions to peacekeeping operations, Japan's wartime responsibilities and support for an indefinite extension of the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT), the officials said.

He will tell the assembly that Japan intends to play an active role in reforming and strengthening the world body, including those of the Security Council—a theme expected to be high on the agenda for discussions at the 48th General Assembly. But he will refer to Japan's bid for a permanent council seat only indirectly, reflecting conflicting opinions within the coalition government, they said.

Hosokawa's remarks will be less specific than a report that the Japanese Government under then Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa forwarded to the UN Secretariat in July, which said Japan is ready to assume all the Security Council duties it can shoulder. Hosokawa, 55, will be the second Japanese prime minister to deliver a speech at the general assembly, after former Prime Minister Yasuhiro Nakasone.

In their first meeting, Hosokawa and Clinton are expected to discuss joint efforts for the recovery of the world economy and aid to Palestinians granted self-rule, government officials said.

Hosokawa is to announce Japan's contribution of 100 million dollars in the next year to help establish a World Bank fund to assist in economic programs for Palestinians following the September 13 accord between Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organization, the officials said.

The two leaders will also extend support for Russia's reforms under President Boris Yeltsin, who faces difficulties at home due to his rivalry with the hard-line parliament, they said.

On bilateral ties, Hosokawa and Clinton are expected to agree on meeting again twice—in November when the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) forum is held in Seattle, and in mid-January next year, the officials said.

Hosokawa will outline Japan's policy of seeking to maintain friendly political and economic relations with the U.S. But on the economic front, he will reject U.S. demands to set numerical targets for boosting Japan's imports from the U.S., on the grounds that such targets would run counter to the principles of free trade and would lead to managed trade, they said.

Japan and the U.S. agreed in July to set "objective criteria" as a means to measure improvements in such priority fields as increased procurement of foreign goods by the Japanese Government and imports of more U.S.-made cars and auto parts. But they have been divided in their perception of "objective criteria," with U.S. seeing the phrase as meaning specific numerical targets and Japan taking it as a simple yardstick to demonstrate progress.

Hosokawa will explain Japan's efforts to boost domestic demand to reduce its mammoth trade surplus with the U.S., such as the 6.15 trillion yen economic stimulus package approved on September 16, the officials said.

On the other hand, he will urge Washington to reduce its fiscal deficit and to strengthen the international competitiveness of U.S. companies, they said.

Hata is scheduled to hold talks with Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev on Saturday and will also meet Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres on Sunday, Japanese officials said.

Hosokawa To Unveil Construction Bid Reform

OW2409130693 Tokyo KYODO in English 1244 GMT 24 Sep 93

[Text] Tokyo, Sept. 24 KYODO—Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa will unveil a plan to implement a major reform of the bidding system on public works projects in response to U.S. demands, government sources said Friday. The sources said Hosokawa will inform U.S. President Bill Clinton of the planned overhaul in talks next Monday in New York, where the two leaders will attend the United Nations General Assembly.

Hosokawa is unlikely to go into detail about the reform measures in his talks with Clinton, the sources said. On his return to Japan, however, Hosokawa will order the Construction Ministry to consider specific ways to make it easier for foreign contractors to participate in such bidding under a limited open bidding system introduced by the ministry at the beginning of this month.

During bilateral subcabinet-level talks in Hawaii last week, the U.S. demanded that Japan allow foreign contractors access to all public works projects undertaken by the central government.

Washington is prepared to impose sanctions against Japan under the 1988 Omnibus Trade and Investment Act if no progress is achieved by the end of October.

Hata To Meet Russian Foreign Minister in U.S.

OW2409084493 Tokyo KYODO in English 0837 GMT 24 Sep 93

[Text] Tokyo, Sept. 24 KYODO—Foreign Minister Tsutomu Hata will meet his Russian counterpart Andrey Kozyrev on Saturday [25 September] in New York where they will attend the United Nations General Assembly, Foreign Ministry sources said Friday. In light of the political drama being played out in Moscow, Hata and Kozyrev are likely to discuss the prospects of Russian President Boris Yeltsin visiting Japan as planned in mid-October, the sources said. They may also discuss the contents of documents to be agreed on between the two countries when Yeltsin visits Japan, they said.

The sources brushed aside suggestions that the confrontation between Yeltsin and the Russian Parliament will directly affect the planned visit. They said details of the visit had been worked out through diplomatic channels for some time. But they described the situation in Russia as "very tense," so Yeltsin will be forced to make a tough decision to go overseas during the crisis.

Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa told the Diet Wednesday that he hopes the Russian situation will not scuttle the trip.

Yeltsin canceled his visit to Japan twice during the past year, citing domestic problems. But he later blamed Japan for taking a tough stand on a bilateral dispute over four Russian-held islands off Hokkaido, Japan's northernmost main island.

Hosokawa Defends Tax Plans; Hata on Russia Policy

OW2409113293 Tokyo KYODO in English 1117 GMT 24 Sep 93

[Text] Tokyo, Sept. 24 KYODO—Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa on Friday defended the current taxation on "shitofumeikin," unspecified corporate outlays which have drawn criticism as the "hotbed" of bribery-ridden politics.

Although it is "the principle to tax the actual recipients of such unaccounted-for corporate outlays," he said, it is better to impose a tax on such murky expenditures, unless tax inspectors can uncover the destination of such outlays. Hosokawa made the remarks in response to a Diet interpellation from Japanese Communist Party legislator Hiroshi Tachiki, who urged the government to ban business firms from disguising their bribes as shitofumeikin in filing tax returns.

Under Japan's corporate tax system, business firms are not forced to disclose the identities of the recipients of their "shitofumeikin" expenditures, as long as the firms agree to pay a 37.5 percent corporate tax on the outlays. The tax privilege has been under a spotlight in the wake of a slew of contractors' bribery scandals in which executives of leading contracting companies reported using the "shitofumeikin" tax category to give donations exceeding a legal limit to politicians.

"The government should place priority on eliminating the system at which politicians personally profit from cash donations from general construction firms by intervening in the process of picking up the winner of public works projects," Tachiki said.

Hosokawa said the four government-proposed political and electoral reform bills, if enacted, would be able to stamp out such bribery-takings. However, Tachiki accused Hosokawa of trying to divert public attention from necessary enactment of more comprehensive antigraft measures to a mere electoral revamping proposal, which he said would create new defects in the electoral system.

Hosokawa refuted the charge, saying his electoral reform proposal would be able to create a system in which minority opinions would be respected by enabling miniparties to garner seats in the House of Representatives.

Tachiki said the proposed system would have the virtual effects of shutting out miniparties from elections, since the electoral bill mandates that a party deposit 750 million yen as a fee at the state treasury to qualify for fielding candidates in all of the 250 single-seat constituencies. He also rapped the bill for demanding that a party put up an additional 180 million yen as a fee to be eligible to field candidates in proportional representation, as a party is required by the bill to field at least 30 candidates under the proportional representation.

Hosokawa defended the bill, saying the proposed requirement to deposit the fee would be "necessary and indispensable to prevent many small parties from securing their pariamentary presence."

Meanwhile, Foreign Minister Tsutomu Hata said the recent Russian turmoil failed to convince the government of any need to change its longtime policy of linking Japan's full-fledged aid to Russia to Moscow's accord to make headway in meeting Japan's demand for the return of four Russian-held islands.

"The government will persistently maintain its policy of normalizing Japan-Russia relations by resolving the territorial problem and concluding a peace treaty," he said.

Russia must "remove the vestige" of its expansionist policy in the Stalin era on the basis of the principle of "law and justice," the minister said. The four islands were seized in the closing days of World War II in 1945 by the Soviet Army, which subsequently expelled Japanese islanders.

Hosokawa Opposes Numerical Targets To Cut Surplus

OW2409031993 Tokyo KYODO in English 0259 GMT 24 Sep 93

[Text] Tokyo, Sept. 24 KYODO—Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa on Friday reiterated his opposition to a demand by Washington to set numerical targets to reduce Japan's huge trade surplus with the United States.

Hosokawa also said the question over whether to set such targets has already been resolved between Tokyo and Washington. He said numerical targets between the two nations would lead to managed trade and was against the principles of maintaining a free trade system. Hosokawa was speaking at a plenary session of the House of Councillors in response to a question by Taichiro Okawara, a member of the opposition Liberal Democratic Party.

Hosokawa on Trade Targets, DPRK Missile Program

OW2409052693 Tokyo KYODO in English 0457 GMT 24 Sep 93

[Text] Tokyo, Sept. 24 KYODO—Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa said Friday that in the July 10 Japan-U.S. trade framework accord the United States accepted Japan's refusal to set verifiable numerical targets to reduce the bilateral trade imbalance.

"Through Japan-U.S. economic framework negotiations, Japan has secured U.S. consent for Japan's refusal to set any numerical target for whittling down its current account surplus with the United States," the prime minister told the House of Councillors plenary session.

"This is an issue which has been already settled between Japan and the United States," Hosokawa said.

The trade framework agreement was reached in Tokyo between then Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa and U.S. President Bill Clinton, who hammered out the deal a day after the Group of Seven leaders wrapped up their three-day summit.

"The government believes it is inappropriate to set a specific target for reducing the trade surplus, as it would amount to managing trade and be problematic in maintaining a free trading system," he said.

On North Korea, Hosokawa said his administration will not restore diplomatic relations with Pyongyang unless it takes action to clear suspicions that it is developing nuclear weapons in a secret program.

In reply to a question on North Korea's test-firing of the "Nodong-1" missile reportedly capable of hitting most parts of Japan, Defense Agency Director General Keisuke Nakanishi expressed doubts about Japan's military ability to shoot down such a missile. Nakanishi told the upper house the North Koreans test-fired the missile on May 29 over a distance of 500 kilometers from a launching pad on North Korea's east coast to the middle of the Sea of Japan.

The missile—an improved version of the Russian Scud missile—flew the distance, although the North Koreans restricted its flying range "by adjusting the launching method," he said.

"Japan does not possess an air defense system capable of shooting down their Scud missiles," he said.

Although Japan started in fiscal 1992 deploying the improved version of the U.S.-supplied patriot antimissile system, the agency is not sure whether the improved Patriots would be able to knock down the Nodong-1 missile, he said.

"As the capability of the North Korean missile improves through innovations, our missiles' ability to deal with the North Korean missile would undergo a relative decline and become limited," he said.

The agency will consider how it could more effectively shoot down North Korean "ballistic missiles capable of delivering both nuclear and biological warheads," he pledged.

Recent press reports said that Japan and the United States are holding talks on possible joint development of a ballistic missile defense program designed to shoot down incoming missiles flying though or above the atmosphere.

Next week, Nakanishi and U.S. Defense Secretary Les Aspin are expected to hold intensive talks in Washington on the program to bolster the capability of the patriot missiles used by U.S. Forces against Iraqi Scud missiles in the 1991 Gulf War, according to John Deutch, U.S. undersecretary of defense for acquisition. Deutch held talks with his counterpart Shigeru Hatakeyama on Wednesday in Tokyo.

Seoul Urges Tokyo's Cooperation on DPRK Threat

OW2409112393 Tokyo KYODO in English 1100 GMT 24 Sep 93

[Text] Tokyo, Sept. 24 KYODO—South Korean Foreign Minister Han Sung-chu on Friday urged continued collaboration between Japan, South Korea and the United States in dealing with the commonly perceived threat posed by North Korea's suspected nuclear arms and ballistic missile development programs, Foreign Ministry officials said. Han, who arrived in Tokyo on Thursday for a three-day official visit, made the call in a 20-minute meeting with Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa.

Hosokawa responded that Japan, for its part, will continue maintaining close contact with South Korea on the issue, the officials said. The officials quoted Han as saying a common front against North Korea's nuclear development programs was all the more necessary now since there has been no progress in talks between Pyongyang and the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA). Moreover, he said, talks between Pyongyang and Seoul on implementing a mutual inspection accord and other issues have yet to be realized.

Officials said Hosokawa expressed his desire to meet with South Korean President Kim Yong-sam when the two

leaders attend a summit- level meeting of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) forum in Seattle in November. Han was quoted as saying Kim likewise wants to meet Hosokawa then. After the meeting, Han went into talks with Foreign Minister Tsutomu Hata. The two were expected to discuss North Korea and the issue of Korean women who say they were forced into prostitution by the Japanese military during World War II.

Han will leave Tokyo on Saturday for New York to attend the new session of the United Nations General Assembly.

Fujii Says Tokyo To Resist G-7 Tax Cut Pressure

OW2409032293 Tokyo KYODO in English 0306 GMT 24 Sep 93

[Text] Tokyo, Sept. 24 KYODO—Finance Minister Hirohisa Fujii said Friday he will reject any calls on Japan to cut income tax as a way to boost its economy at the weekend meeting of finance ministers and central bankers of the Group of Seven (G-7) industrial nations. Speaking at a regular press conference, Fujii said he will reiterate his view that it is wrong to issue deficit-financing bonds to finance a tax reduction.

"I believe the G-7 nations share the view that deficit-financing bonds are not good," Fujii said hours before departing for the G-7 meeting in Washington.

Asked for comment on the latest projection by the International Monetary Fund (IMF) that Japan's economy would shrink 0.1 percent this year, Fujii said, "we should not let it happen. I'll tell the G-7 meeting that we are making efforts to avoid such a situation," he said.

In its latest world economic outlook, the IMF forecast that Japan's economy will shrink 0.1 percent in calendar 1993, revised downward from its earlier projection of 0.5 percent growth.

Fujii Leaves for G-7 Meeting

OW2409101293 Tokyo KYODO in English 0946 GMT 24 Sep 93

[Text] Tokyo, Sept. 24 KYODO—Finance Minister Hirohisa Fujii left for Washington Friday to attend a series of international meetings, including the weekend meeting of Group of Seven (G-7) finance officials. On top of the G-7 meeting, Fujii is to attend the annual meetings of the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank. He is slated to return home on Tuesday. Finance Ministry officials accompanying Fujii include Kosuke Nakahira, vice finance minister for international affairs.

Official Rejects IMF Economic Growth Forecast

OW2409104993 Tokyo KYODO in English 1038 GMT 24 Sep 93

[Text] Tokyo, Sept. 24 KYODO—A Japanese Economic Planning Official on Friday rejected a forecast on Japan's economic growth by the International Monetary Fund, saying the projection is too low and based on incomplete data.

Tsutomu Tanaka, vice minister of the Economic Planning Agency (EPA), said at a press conference the IMF's outlook for Japan's economic performance this year does not take well enough into account the latest pump-priming package and an official discount rate cut. The IMF this week predicted that Japan's real gross domestic product will shrink 0.1 percent in 1993, revising downward its April forecast of a 1.3 percent growth.

The Japanese Government adopted an additional 6.2 trillion yen stimulative package on September 16 in yet another bid to buoy the economy. The government action was backed by the Bank of Japan, which on Tuesday cut the key lending rate charged on loans to private banks by 0.75 percentage point to a record low 1.75 percent per annum. The EPA estimates the latest stimulative package will boost the gross national product by 1.3 percent a year.

Bank Continues To See Economy as Stagnant

OW2409100593 Tokyo KYODO in English 0922 GMT 24 Sep 93

[Text] Tokyo, Sept. 24 KYODO—Japan's economic growth remains weak without any clear indications of imminent recovery, the Bank of Japan said Friday. The central bank, which lowered its official discount rate Tuesday to a record low 1.75 percent to spur the economy, made the observation in its monthly economic review. In the report, it pointed out weakness in indicators such as sluggish personal consumption and corporate fixed investments.

The unusually cool and rainy summer in Japan this year left consumers wanting to spend less, the report said, while corporate plant and equipment spending continued to decline in the manufacturing sector despite progress observed in their capital destocking.

"Investment by small and medium-size enterprises, which has traditionally been responsive to monetary easing, remains stagnant," the central bank said. "Neither machinery orders nor construction starts indicate that a recovery of business investment is in the offing."

Among other elements the bank pointed out were slower exports due to the yen's appreciation, weaker imports due to the recession, a recent decline of industrial production and slow inventory adjustments. It also noted an apparent decrease in recent corporate profitability and weaker labor demands. The good news included the increase of housing investments and lower wholesale and consumer prices.

"In light of these economic and financial conditions, the Bank of Japan decided, on September 21, to reduce the official discount rate by 0.75 percentage point to (the historically low) 1.75 percent," the central bank reported.

Corporate Executives' Chief Backs Trade Concept

OW2409080093 Tokyo KYODO in English 0748 GMT 24 Sep 93

[Text] Tokyo, Sept. 24 KYODO—A top business executive said Friday it would be meaningful for Japan to have a broad goal in mind in cutting its huge trade surplus.

Masaru Hayami, chairman of the Japan Association of Corporate Executives (Keizai Doyukai), said at a Foreign Correspondents' Club luncheon, "I think there is a significance in setting a broad goal to which we all strive."

Hayami said it would be meaningful if the surplus could be reduced from the fiscal 1992 level, which stood at 3.3 percent of the nominal gross national product, to about 2 percent within the next five years. He admitted, however, it would be difficult to set targets for cutting current-account and trade balances and then to meet them because these areas cannot be controlled by macroeconomic policies. But Hayami stressed the need for Japan to make clear to the rest of the world its intention and vision on how to reduce the trade surpluses.

While strongly opposed to establishing a benchmark for specific industry sectors, Hayami said there would be nothing wrong for a country, even under a capitalistic system, to detail in its economic plan a general direction for the medium-term prospective through macroeconomic policies.

"I don't think this (kind of plan) should be characterized as something the government has no control (over)," Hayami said, "at the same time, this should not be a subject of sanction or penalty if such a medium-term goal was not met."

Tokyo To Propose International Control of Plutonium

OW2409065393 Tokyo KYODO in English 0639 GMT 24 Sep 93

[Text] Tokyo, Sept. 24 KYODO—The Science and Technology Agency decided Friday to propose to the world a plan to put plutonium, one of the most toxic materials known, under international control, agency officials said.

Agency Chief Satsuki Eda will advance the proposal at the General Assembly of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) to be held from Monday in Vienna, they said. Under the program, all countries, including nuclear powers, would have to register all stock of plutonium and highly enriched uranium except those for military purposes and reveal their plans for using the stocks, the officials said. Plutonium and highly enriched uranium are used to produce nuclear weapons.

If a nation has no plan to use the stocks in a certain period, the nuclear substances must be reported as a "surplus" and be stored in a special facility to be designated under the program, the officials said.

Nations to join the program would form a committee to supervise the use of the nuclear substances and to regularly make information public, they said.

The registered nuclear substances should preferably be inspected by the IAEA, but such an inspection would not be conditional under the program because nonnuclear powers are not obliged to accept such inspections, they said.

The IAEA has also been considering some form of international control of plutonium and highly enriched uranium and the united stated is expected to mention such a project in announcing its new policy on nuclear nonproliferation soon.

Japan's plan is expected to differ from those of the IAEA and the U.S. on the obligation of nations to reveal the use of the nuclear substances, the officials said. Japan has decided to allow greater transparency in its plutonium management to win international understanding of its plans to promote power generation using plutonium.

During the 134-day round trip of the Akatsuki Maru freighter to carry reprocessed plutonium from France to Japan that ended in early January, over 40 countries voiced concern about the ship passing through their territorial waters. Japan also came under fire for its alleged reluctance to agree to an indefinite extension of the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty.

Hata Calls for Understanding on PRC Rights Issue

OW2409060593 Tokyo KYODO in English 0542 GMT 24 Sep 93

[Text] Tokyo, Sept. 24 KYODO—Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa's chief spokesman on Friday welcomed the International Olympic Committee's [IOC] vote to award Sydney the Olympic Games in the year 2000.

"I welcome that the Olympics are held in the southern hemisphere after a 44-year lapse," Chief Cabinet Secretary Masayoshi Takemura said at a press conference. Takemura, who is also leader of Sakigake (Harbinger), praised Australia's efforts to win the bid and pledged Japan's cooperation to make the Olympics a success.

Sydney narrowly beat Beijing, the perceived favorite among the five candidates, by only two votes at the IOC vote in Monte Carlo. China's poor human rights record was largely seen as the decisive factor that tipped the balance.

"I acknowledge that the Olympics could have spurred China to promote reform and opening even further and I wish it would continue to carry on reform and opening despite the decision," Takemura said.

Foreign Minister Tsutomu Hata urged more understanding for China, saying, "as a big country (China) has problems catching up (in human rights issues) with Europe and the United States." But he also called on Beijing to make more efforts to gain the understanding of the world community.

"Concerning the venue of the Olympics, states have no leverage," said the leader of Shinseito (Japan Renewal Party). "What would become of the Olympics if we made this decision subject to political maneuvering."

Ministers To Discuss Poor Rice Harvest

OW2409101793 Tokyo KYODO in English 1005 GMT 24 Sep 93

[Text] Tokyo, Sept. 24 KYODO—Cabinet ministers will get together Thursday [30 September] to discuss how to

cope with poor harvests of the 1993 rice crop, caused by unseasonally cool and wet summer weather, Chief Cabinet Secretary Masayoshi Takemura said Friday.

The top government spokesman told a news conference that discussions at the meeting will be based on the harvest index for the 1993 crop of paddy grown rice as of September 15 and will contemplate possible legislative and budgetary measures to be taken. The harvest index is likely to drop to around 85 against the average harvest of 100, a sharp decline from 95 reported in August, government sources said. The August figure matched the post-World War II record low set in 1953.

Takemura said the planned meeting, to be attended by several ministers, will be held because the government is worried about the influence of the cool summer and typhoons on harvests of rice crops. The chief cabinet secretary declined to comment to a question if the government will import rice to overcome a shortage from the expected poor harvest this fall.

Takemura said he foresees no negative developments on the national rice supply-demand situation for the immediate future. The government strictly controls supplies of rice and virtually bans rice imports.

The last time Japan imported large amounts of rice was 1984, when 150,000 tons was imported from South Korea on an emergency basis after four years of poor harvests. Japan has been under intense pressure from abroad to open up its rice market at the ongoing Uruguay Round of multilateral trade negotiations.

Earlier, Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries Minister Eijiro Hata said the government should regard the damage to farm products by the cold summer and the long rainy season as an emergency and an extraordinary case, indicating that the government may decide to import rice on an emergency basis.

North Korea

Japan's Comments on Missiles Denounced

SK2409105993 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1046 GMT 24 Sep 93

["Japanese Authorities Must Act With Discretion, DPRK Foreign Ministry Spokesman"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang, September 24 (KCNA)—The Japanese authorities must not act rashly, but look straight at the trend of the time and behave with discretion, warned a spokesman for the DPRK Foreign Ministry in a statement today.

Noting that Japan has launched a frantic anti-DPRK campaign regarding the some time ago regular missile launching exercise in the DPRK, he said:

Now Japan is making quite a noise about establishing a U.S.- Japanese "theatre missile defence system", blaring that "diplomatic efforts should be exerted to prevent North Korea from nuclear or missile use" and "there should be means of defence" to cope with it.

It is ridiculous, indeed, of Japan to take issue with our missiles. Maliciously pursuing her policy hostile to our country, Japan keeps stationing in her territory huge foreign forces targeted against our Republic, deploying a large number of latest-type offensive weapons including sophisticated missiles and is trying to stockpile a colossal amount of plutonium and produce nuclear weapons.

It is only too natural for us to increase our defence capabilities when the enemies' moves to isolate and stifle our Republic are intensifying and Japan herself is joining force with them, taking the lead in the anti-DPRK campaign. This is entirely a matter pertaining to our sovereignty.

This notwithstanding, Japan is kicking much ado about our regular missile launching exercise, and this is not because of any "threat" to Japan.

Lurking behind her noisy campaign is a dangerous political scheme to block the progress of DPRK-U.S. talks and isolate and stifle us by adding a "missile problem" to the "nuclear problem" and, at the same time, to complete her nuclear armament and become a full- fledged military power on that pretext.

Never should it go unnoticed that an influential politician of Japan said forces of Japan may be dispatched to South Korea as a member of the "UN forces" in case of emergency in the Korean peninsula.

This provocative utterance is a revelation of Japan's ambition to reinvade our country, captivated by anachronistic militarist illusion.

This move of Japan will bring an extremely serious danger to peace and security in the Korean peninsula and Asia as a whole, and we cannot but take a serious view of it.

If the Japanese authorities continue to reinforce the military forces in conspiracy with the United States, constantly pursuing the hostile policy toward our country instead of liquidating the past and taking the road of improving relations with us we would have no other choice but to take a self-defensive measure corresponding to it.

Japan will be entirely to blame for the consequences arising therefrom.

Daily on Japanese Plan To Expand Defense Forces

SK2209100193 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0437 GMT 22 Sep 93

["Dangerous Move"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang, September 22 (KCNA)—The director general of the Japan Defence Agency recently called for a constitutional revision to expand operations of the "Self-Defence Forces" [SDF] of Japan overseas.

Commenting on this, a NODONG SINMUN analyst today says this is a dangerous attempt of Japan to set out on the road of overseas expansion without any restraint and restriction.

The news analyst goes on:

Japan regards it as her post-Cold War general goal to become a political power commensurate with her status as an economic power. Hence, she is trying to create circumstances favourable to her becoming a political power by taking an active part in the "U.N. peacekeeping activities". Japan's attempt at rewriting her Constitution is to attain this purpose.

Japan is unwilling to clearly atone for her past crimes of aggression still today, nearly half a century since the end of World War II. This is meant to repeat the criminal acts she had committed at that time.

Japan's attempt to expand the "SDF's" operational sphere overseas is to realize the old dream of "greater East Asia co-prosperity sphere" by force.

Should the present Japan's Constitution be revised so that "SDF" may advance overseas without restraint, it would pose an immeasurable danger.

Japan must give up her foolish attempt to attain anything by strength.

What Japan must follow is peace, not overseas aggression. This is the only way for Japan to live.

World Urged To 'Firmly Maintain' Independence

SK2209114693 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1040 GMT 22 Sep 93

["On Global Independence and Durable Peace of the World"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang, September 22 (KCNA)—NODONG SINMUN in a by-lined article today says independence of the whole world must be realised to prevent war and ensure durable peace of the world.

Whether to prevent war and defend peace, or not is a vital matter of whether to save mankind from catastrophic disasters of war, or not, the article says, and goes on:

The important way of averting the danger of a new world war and preserving peace is to wage a vigorous struggle for independence of the whole world.

When the whole world is made independent and all countries and nations do not follow the imperialists but thoroughly reject their domination and interference and make aggressor troops and military bases of imperialists withdraw from their territories completely, a new world war can be prevented and peace ensured.

To realise independence of the whole world, it is important, first of all, for all the countries and nations to firmly maintain independence. This is the basic principle to be adhered to in the struggle for realising independence of the whole world and, at the same time, a basic way of guaranteeing its victory.

It is also necessary to strengthen and develop the non-aligned movement to realise independence of the whole world. The movement is directly connected with independence of the whole world in its ideal and purpose; it is a progressive movement which opposes all manner of domination and subjugation and aspires after independence.

To achieve unity of the anti-imperialist independent forces is a decisive guarantee for victory of the cause of global independence. All the progressive and peaceloving forces of the world should equally participate in the cause of independence of the whole world for its anti-imperialist independent character. When all these forces are united, it is possible to ensure overwhelming superiority of the independent forces to imperialist and other reactionary forces, the old dominationist forces and expedite vigorously the cause of global independence.

The cause of independence of the whole world is immediately the cause of peace. When an energetic struggle is waged for the independence of the whole world, a new world, free and peaceful without domination and subjugation, aggression and war, will surely come about.

Notes on International Liaison Committee Statement

SK1709115293 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1007 GMT 17 Sep 93

[Text] Pyongyang, September 17 (KCNA)—Guy Dupre, secretary general of the International Liaison Committee for reunification and peace in Korea, issued a statement on September 7 denouncing the South Korean authorities for obstructing the reunification of the country.

He said it is very regrettable that the South Korean authorities are intentionally increasing the tensions on the Korean peninsula, far from joining in the process of dialogue and detente for the reunification and peace of Korea, at a time when a new prospect has been opened for Korea's reunification.

He noted that the South Korean authorities have launched provocative campaigns against the DPRK one after another and crudely violated the spirit of the joint declaration on the denuclearization of the Korean peninsula.

He vehemently denounced the South Korean authorities for repudiating the DPRK's proposals to arrange a sincere and effective dialogue between the North and the South including the proposal for the exchange of special envoys and persistently trying to block the progress of DPRK-U.S. talks with outcries for "international joint sanctions" against the DPRK.

"The International Liaison Committee calls upon all the peace- and justice-loving forces of the world to put pressure upon the South Korean authorities to approach the North-South dialogue with a sincere attitude and refrain from obstructing the process of peace and reunification of Korea," he stressed.

PRC Cultural Delegation Arrives in Pyongyang

SK2409022693 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1505 GMT 23 Sep 93

[Text] Pyongyang, September 23 (KCNA)—A government cultural delegation of China headed by Minister of Culture Liu Zhongde arrived here today.

The delegation was met at Pyongyang railway station by First Vice-Minister Ho Paek-san and Vice-Minister Kim Chong-ho of culture and arts and Ning Fukui, charge d'affaires ad interim of the Chinese Embassy here.

Administration Council Hosts Reception

SK2409071593 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0423 GMT 24 Sep 93

[Text] Pyongyang, September 24 (KCNA)—The Administration Council hosted a reception for the visiting government cultural delegation of China at the Mansudae Assembly Hall on Thursday [23 September] evening.

Invited to the reception were the members of the delegation headed by Minister of Culture Liu Zhongde and the officials of the Chinese Embassy here.

Present there were Chang-chol, vice-premier and minister of Culture and Art, Ho Paek-san, first vice-minister of culture and art, Choe Yong-hwa, first vice-chairman of the Central Committee of the General Federation of the Unions of Literature and Arts of Korea, Chon Yon-ok, vice-chairperson of the Committee for Cultural Relations with Foreign Countries, and other officials concerned.

Speeches were made at the reception.

Meanwhile, Chang-chol, vice-premier and minister of culture and art, met and had a friendly conversation with the delegation at the Mansudae Assembly Hall on the same day.

New PRC Envoy Presents Credentials to Kim Il-song

SK2409113093 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1036 GMT 24 Sep 93

[Text] Pyongyang, September 24 (KCNA)—The great leader President Kim Il-song today was presented with credentials by Qiao Zonghuai, newly appointed Chinese Ambassador E.P. [extraordinary and plenipotentiary], to Korea.

Present at the presentation ceremony were Kim Yong-nam, vice- premier and foreign minister, and officials of the Chinese Embassy in Pyongyang.

President Kim Il-song had a talk with the ambassador after receiving the credentials.

DPRK Delegations Leave for Switzerland, India

SK1709043393 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1513 GMT 16 Sep 93

[Text] Pyongyang, September 16 (KCNA)—A DPRK delegation headed by Yu Song-kwang, director of the General Bureau of Invention to participate in the 24th general meeting of the World Intellectual Property Organization to be held in Switzerland and a delegation of the League of Socialist Working Youth of Korea headed by Vice-Chairman of its Central Committee Choe Hyon-tok to visit India left here Thursday.

SPA Delegation Departs on Tour of Southeast Asia

SK2109120193 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1044 GMT 21 Sep 93

[Text] Pyongyang, September 21 (KCNA)—A delegation of the Supreme People's Assembly [SPA] headed by chairman Yang Hyong-sop left here today to visit Indonesia and other Southeast Asian countries.

The delegation was sent off at the airport by Vice-Chairman of the SPA Paek In-chun and Indonesian Ambassador to Korea R. Muhamad Muharam Sumadipraja.

Anti-Nuclear Doctors Group Departs for Mexico

SK2109120793 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1041 GMT 21 Sep 93

[Text] Pyongyang, September 21 (KCNA)—A delegation of the Korean Anti-Nuclear Peace Doctors' Association headed by its chairman Choe Chang-sik left here today to visit Mexico.

A student home-visiting group of Korea University of Chongnyon headed by Hong Chong-su, a home-visiting group of Korean students in Japan headed by Kim Kwang-chong and the 198th short-term home- visiting group of compatriots in Japan arrived in Wonsan Sunday to visit the socialist homeland.

ROK Urged To Stop 'War Exercises' for Talks

SK2409102093 Pyongyang KCNA in English 24100 1004 GMT 24 Sep 93

["War Gamble Must Be Stopped for Dialogue"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang, September 24 (KCNA)—The South Korean authorities must manifest their attitude to discontinue all forms of nuclear war exercises against the fellow countrymen and refrain from seeking a "mutual assistance system" as regards the "nuclear problem" and all other intrigues against them, if they really intend to sit face to face with the North and discuss the pending issues including the nuclear problem, says NODONG SINMUN today.

Recalling the allegation of the South Korean authorities that the third-stage U.S.-DPRK "talks cannot be held" unless the North- South dialogue makes progress and the "nuclear inspection" problem is solved, the paper branded it as a despicable attempt to lay the blame for the suspended North-South dialogue at the door of the North side and put the brake on the DPRK-U.S. talks.

It says:

The blame for the frozen dialogue entirely rests with the South Korean rulers who refuse to accept the North side's proposal of dialogue and are ceaselessly committing war provocation moves to increase the tension and aggravate mutual relations.

The South Korean rulers staged "Ulchi 93" military exercises in May when the North side proposed to exchange special envoys for the solution of the pending issues between the North and the South including the nuclear problem. And they staged "Ulchi Focus Lens" joint military exercises after proposing to resume the meeting of the North-South joint nuclear control committee.

Worse still, they are resorting to criminal intrigues to do harm to the fellow countrymen with the help of outside forces, raising a hue and cry over the fictitious "nuclear problem" of the North. They are also straining the situation by unilaterally declaring that the "Team Spirit" joint military exercises would be staged next year, too.

It is a dastardly act of those bereft of conscience to try to lay at the North's door the blame for the dialogue which they blocked themselves, and it shows that the present rulers under the "civilian" veil are a group of anti-national elements steeped in anti-communist confrontation like the ruling quarters of the "fifth and sixth republics".

European Pomminnyon Delegation Adopts Resolution

SK2209112193 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1010 GMT 22 Sep 93

[Text] Pyongyang, September 22 (KCNA)—Delegates of Koreans under the European regional headquarters of the National Alliance for the Country's Reunification (Pomminnyon) held a joint meeting in Berlin on September 4 and discussed the implementation of the resolution adopted by the North and South and overseas sides at the 4th pan-national rally [PNR].

A resolution was adopted at the meeting in the name of all the Koreans in Europe.

The resolution says independence in the struggle for national reunification is a great principle which can by no means be abandoned, and peaceful reunification is the consistent goal and precondition of reunification.

It notes that the North-South agreement is a powerful means and way of national reunification and the reunification through confederation is the most correct way of reunification.

Saying unity of the national reunification movement forces in the North and South and overseas is the chief motive force of national reunification and the source of strength for it, the resolution calls for striving for the unity of the reunification movement forces.

A note to Kim Yong-sam was adopted at the meeting.

In the note the participants urged him to renounce the policy of "unified channel of dialogue", allow the PNR, pursue an independent reunification policy instead of the one of following foreign forces, carry the North-South agreement into practice immediately and completely, stop intelligence and surveillance operation against overseas figures immediately, abolish the "treaties", "agreements", law and system that stand in the way of reunification, and to guarantee free debates of the people on reunification.

Group Urges South To Apologize for 'Espionage'

SK2209065993 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0433 GMT 22 Sep 93

[Text] Pyongyang, September 22 (KCNA)—A spokesman for the Central Committee of the League of Socialist Working Youth of Korea (LSWYK) in a statement to the press Tuesday said the espionage committed by the South Korean puppets after infiltrating a spy ship into the territorial waters of the North side clearly shows how desperately they are trying to blockade the North-South dialogue and put the brake on the DPRK-USA talks by increasing tensions at any cost.

He said:

"The South Korean authorities are resorting to an anti-DPRK campaign at this momentous juncture when the whole nation should be united as one to open the door of reunification in the 90s under the banner of the 10-point programme of the great unity of the whole nation. This shows that they themselves cannot be a trustworthy dialogue partner and do not want national reconciliation and unity, peace and peaceful reunification of the country.

"Our LSWYK members and young people strongly demand that the South Korean authorities bear responsibility for their infiltration of a spy ship and apologize to the whole nation for it."

Daily Supports 10-Point Reunification Plan

SK2309053193 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0449 GMT 23 Sep 93

["Most Realistic Great Political Programme Indicating Just Way of Achieving Reunification"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang, September 23 (KCNA)—Chong Sinhyok, vice-chairman of the Committee for the Peaceful Reunification of the Fatherland, on September 22 contributed an article to NODONG SINMUN supporting the "10-point Programme of the Great Unity of the Whole Nation for the Reunification of the Country" laid down by the great leader President Kim Il-song.

The 10-point programme of the great unity of the whole nation is the most fair and aboveboard one reflecting the aspiration and desire of the nation for peace and peaceful reunification and the specific conditions of Korea where different ideas and systems exist in the North and the South, and a political charter acceptable to anyone who loves the country and the nation, he said, and continued:

The 10-point programme of the great unity of the whole nation is a great charter of national unity which makes it possible, first of all, to end distrust and confrontation within the nation and achieve reconciliation and unity.

The great leader Comrade Kim Il-song has said:

"Great national unity is a fundamental precondition for the achievement of the independent and peaceful reunification of our country, as well as the most essential aspect of it."

Of importance in reunifying the country is not the problem of any procedure or method but to achieve genuine harmony and unity of the whole nation.

Under the present situation of Korea where there exist different ideas and systems in the North and the South and neither side would abandon its idea and system, the only way to achieve harmony and reunification of the nation is to establish confederation.

The 10-point programme of the great unity of the whole nation is based on the realistic possibility that a unified pan-national state can be founded even under the conditions where different ideas and systems exist in the North and the South, if all the fellow countrymen in the North and South and overseas are united as one nation, above all, on the basis of patriotism and the spirit of national independence.

The 10-point programme of the great unity of the whole nation is also a political programme of loving the country and the nation that reflects the common interests and will of the nation.

The program sets it as the basic principle of unity to promote co-existence, co-prosperity and common interests and subordinate everything to the cause of national reunification.

And it refers in detail to the ways of great unity from the question of ceasing all political disputes that foment division and confrontation between the fellow countrymen to the question of appraisal for those who contributed to the reunification and to the principled questions and ways of attaining co-prosperity of the nation.

The 10-point programme of the great unity of the whole nation is a perfect encyclopedia of national unity which consummates the brilliant traditions and experience of great national unity established by the great leader and reflects his magnanimous and benevolent politics.

Chong Sin-hyok stressed if the South Korean authorities truly love the country and the nation and want peace and reunification, they must join hands with the fellow countrymen, not with outside forces, and accept the 10-point programme of the great unity of the whole nation and strive together to carry it into practice.

Daily Criticizes ROK Tactics Against Students

SK2409084393 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0430 GMT 24 Sep 93

["Intelligence and Surveillance Precipitating Self-Destruction"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang, September 24 (KCNA)—"Guidelines on the arrest of wanted students" sent by the South Korean police authorities to the "Pusan police station" was brought to light recently. The "guidelines" specifies that all the student activists should be arrested by all means and methods such as "mobilization of agents".

NODONG SINMUN today brands this as patent proof that the present rulers, while advertising "civilian politics," tenaciously and viciously resort to intelligence and surveillance over campuses, which is a leftover of the military fascist dictatorship.

The analyst says:

At the beginning of his rule, the chief executive committed himself to refrain from political surveillance and "restrict" the functions of the repressive intelligence services such as "Security Planning Board." The reality, however, is quite opposite. While paying lip service to "politics different" from that of the preceding dictatorial "regimes," the present rulers have strengthened the functions of the "Security Planning Board," the headquarters of intelligence politics, and are mobilizing even police in intelligence and surveillance. The intelligence and fascist repression of the people's movement for independence, democracy and reunification have been further intensified.

This shows the present "government" of South Korea is not a "civilian government" at all but an anti-popular fascist "regime" like the successive fascist dictatorial "governments."

Although the present rulers under the "civilian" veil professed to build a "new Korea," it has turned out to be a lie.

If the South Korean rulers continue to cheat the people with empty words of "reforms" and enforce "civilian" dictatorship, they will inevitably encounter strong resistance from the people and go to their doom.

Reunification Group Appeals for Confederal Republic

SK2409110893 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1015 GMT 24 Sep 93

[Text] Pyongyang, September 24 (KCNA)—The International Liaison Committee for the Reunification and Peace of Korea September 14 made public an appeal titled "Let Us Actively Support the Cause of the Independent and Peaceful Reunification of Korea" in the month of support to the proposal for founding the Democratic Confederal Republic of Koryo [DCRK] (October 1-31).

The appeal said:

The proposal for founding the DCRK advanced by the great leader President Kim Il-song on October 10, 1980, is the most reasonable one that makes it possible to perfectly settle the Korean question on the three principles of independence, peaceful reunification and great national unity, the basic principles of Korea's reunification.

An early realisation of reunification by means of confederacy depends on the attitude of the South Korean authorities. They should take a positive stand and attitude for a good fruition through the exchange of special envoys, give

up their dangerous policy of "international pressure" upon the North and refrain from hampering the Korea-U.S. talks.

The obtaining situation makes it incumbent upon the progressive peace forces of the world supporting the Korean people's cause of justice to put pressure upon the South Korean authorities to take a reunification-oriented attitude.

The appeal called upon organisations of friendship and solidarity with the Korean people, committees for supporting the founding of the DCRK and peace movements to widely introduce and propagandize the proposal for founding the DCRK in different forms and ways including meetings, gatherings and demonstrations in the month of support to the proposal and carry on work with their governments, parliaments and socio-political forces to make them support the efforts of the Korean people to settle the question of Korea's reunification by means of confederacy.

Decree Awarding Citations to Soldiers Announced

SK2209100093 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 2100 GMT 20 Sep 93

[Text]

On instituting state citations conferred on the officers and men of the Korean People's Army [KPA] and the Korean People's Security Forces [KPSF] according to the term of military service:

The KPA and the KPSF are our party's glorious revolutionary armed forces which are endlessly loyal to the party, the revolution, the country, and the people. The KPA and the KPSF, inheriting the brilliant tradition of the anti-Japanese revolutionary struggle, not only repulsed the U.S. imperialists' armed invasion and honorably defended the country's freedom and independence, but crushed at every step the continuous new war provocation maneuvers of the imperialists and the reactionaries, and are dependably safeguarding the country's security and the people's happiness. Actively participating in socialist construction, they are registering heroic exploits.

The officers and men of the KPA and the KPSF are the true sons and daughters of the people who are fulfilling their noble and honorable mission as defenders of the revolution and the country, and dependable revolutionary fighters of our party.

Serving in the People's Army is the sacred duty and greatest honor of all the citizens and youths who have been brought up in the bosom of our Republic. Their serving long in the Army and faithfully carrying out the mission entrusted to them is a great contribution to our people's cause of socialism and of reunifying the country.

The DPRK Central People's Committee decides, as noted below, to highly appreciate and add luster to the exploits of the officers and men of the KPA and the KPSF who are faithfully carrying out the military service demonstrating their boundless loyalty and devotion to the party, the revolution, the country, and the people:

1. To institute the state commendation given to the officers and men of the KPA and the KPSF according to the term of their military service.

2. To approve the regulations concerning the state commendation given to the officers and men of the KPA and the KPSF according to the term of their military service.

[Signed] Kim Il-song, DPRK president, 16 September 1993, Pyongyang

KCNA Reports on Rice Harvest in Rural Areas

SK2409111493 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1024 GMT 24 Sep 93

[Text] Pyongyang, September 24 (KCNA)—Rice harvest has started in rural communities of Korea.

Rice is being harvested in some 3,000 hectares on a daily average in South Hwanghae Province.

All cooperative farms of the country have made full preparations for bringing in without any loss rich crops which have visited there as a result of the farming done on a scientific and technical basis as demanded by the chuche method of farming.

More than 8-10 tons of rice is expected from each hectare on an average in Yonbaek, Yoldusamcholli, Chaeryong and Yongchon plains.

South Korea

IAEA Board Decides To Refer DPRK Issue

SK2409003093 Seoul YONHAP in English 0001 GMT 24 Sep 93

[Text] Vienna, Sept. 24 (YONHAP)—The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) adjourned a regular Board of Governors meeting on Thursday after adopting a resolution referring the North Korean nuclear issue to the 37th general meeting to be held next week. The 21-nation Board of Governors, including South Korea, adopted the resolution with a vote of 29 for and five abstentions. One member was not present.

As a result, the North Korean nuclear issue is to be taken up as a special additional agenda item by the general meeting, scheduled to open Monday. An exact date for discussions on the North Korean issue has not been fixed but it is likely to be Oct. 1 since an additional agenda item usually is taken up toward the end of the session.

Following its discussions on the North Korean problem, the Board of Governors expressed its unreserved support for the IAEA Secretariat on the issue and urged North Korea to fulfill its duty in accepting IAEA inspection of its facilities and hold a sincere dialogue with the IAEA. The board also asked the IAEA Secretariat to continue talks with North Korea and report back to the board on any development.

North Korea, which took part in the meeting as an observer, rejected the resolution, describing it as unjust. A North Korean observer said that the resolution would not

only work against efforts by the IAEA and North Korea to resolve the issue but also hamper future negotiations. Any consequence arising from this resolution should be born by the IAEA Secretariat and the member countries that drafted the resolution, he said.

Meanwhile, North Korea sent a telegram Wednesday to the IAEA to suggest the second round of talks be in Vienna in early October. In response, the IAEA proposed holding the talks in Vienna for eight days from Oct. 5. Sources say it appears the dialogue between the IAEA and North Korea will continue, but it is difficult to predict what kind of effect the resolution will have on the second round of talks.

Analysis of DPRK-IAEA Issue

SK2409061893 Seoul YONHAP in English 0545 GMT 24 Sep 93

[By Yi Sun-kun]

[Text] Vienna, Sept. 24 (YONHAP)—The decision by the International Atomic Energy Agency's [IAEA] Board of Governors to refer the North Korean nuclear question to its general meeting next week underscores the sense of urgency and importance felt by the world community over the issue. What action the IAEA general meeting will take and what kind of effect it will have on North Korea are difficult to predict at this juncture, most observers agree. Nevertheless, it is politically significant, they say, if only because the general meeting is taking up the North Korean issue for the first time. The Board of Governors had been expected to assess the progress of talks between the IAEA and North Korea thus far and summarize it in "a statement of the chairman."

Instead, the board took a much stronger action, adopting a resolution and referring the question to the coming general meeting. It reflects how seriously most members of the board are taking the North Korean issue. In fact, the board, anxious to see a change in North Korea's attitude, postponed its discussions on the North Korean issue until the last day of the session. Having heard nothing from Pyongyang, most governors realized the seriousness of the matter. Moreover, while the board meeting was going on, North Korea issued a Foreign Ministry statement insisting that its talks with the IAEA and with South Korea could not be conditions for a third round high-level conference with the United States.

North Korea even threatened again that it could still withdraw from the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT). The North Korean statement came as a shock here as Pyongyang appeared to ignore the IAEA itself. The shock was felt especially hard by IAEA officials as they had made considerable concessions in order to appease Pyongyang, which had been harping on the theme of alleged "unfairness and partiality" of the IAEA.

In its talks with North Korea, the IAEA had not even mentioned ad hoc or regular inspection of nuclear facilities, let alone special inspection. The IAEA, in fact, was treading so softly and gingerly over North Korea that it was actually afraid some other countries might complain about its "partiality for North Korea," if it tried to conduct only ad hoc or routine inspections, which are limited to servicing equipment and changing batteries.

If the IAEA shows further flexibility, North Korea is likely to make more demands and the problem will become more difficult to resolve. This, in essence, was the position Hans Blix, director general, was reported to have taken as he briefed the Board of Governors. The IAEA has resolved to continue to put pressure on North Korea to fulfill its duty as a signatory of the NPT regime, the observers say.

As it stands, the North Korean nuclear issue is expected to be taken up by the IAEA general meeting toward the end of the session, probably on Oct. 1, as an additional agenda item, unless there is a drastic change in the meantime.

Most analysts say, however, they don't expect any firm action to emerge from the meeting because, general political significance aside, the IAEA general meeting has no power to impose sanctions against a member country. In the end, resolution of the North Korean nuclear issue has to depend on the progress of the high-level talks between the United States and North Korea.

There still remains a possibility for the IAEA to continue its talks with North Korea since Pyongyang, at the last possible moment, sent a telegram indicating it was prepared to hold their second round of talks in Vienna. But at the same time, North Korea, which attended the Board of Governors meeting as an observer, has stressed once again IAEA "impartiality" under any circumstances, indicating there is no chance for Pyongyang to change its attitude.

One North Korean official even went as far as to say that although North Korea remains in the NPT regime "politically," it is under no obligation to implement the nuclear safeguards agreement. This hardline stance could result from a possibility that Pyongyang is not well aware of "the international climate" against its nuclear issue.

Pyongyang could also be concerned about "loss of the so-called nuclear card" for negotiations with the United States and Japan if IAEA inspection convincingly proves that North Korea is not developing nuclear weapons after all, some diplomatic observers here say. If this is true, North Korea will continue to try to buy time while holding negotiations with those who could help its sagging economy revive. After reaping some benefit through the use of the nuclear card, then it would probably face serious talks with the IAEA, they say.

In any event, however, pressure on North Korea, in any form or shape, will increase when the IAEA general meeting, with nearly 120 member countries, begins to discuss its nuclear question. Whether it likes it or not, North Korea will come to realize it's better to resolve the issue as soon as possible for its own sake, some IAEA officials say.

Ten Senior Seoul City Officials Resign

SK2409120693 Seoul YONHAP in English 1022 GMT 24 Sep 93

[Text] Seoul, Sept. 24 (YONHAP)—The Seoul City on Friday accepted resignations offered by ten senior municipal officials voluntarily or at the prodding of the city office. The ten included one assistant-minister-level (rank-1) official, five rank-2's, three rank-3's and an executive of the city-run subway corp.

Vice Mayor U Myong-kyu said he believes the resignation of these officials would contribute to energizing his municipal organization. Successors to the resigned officials would be named early next week at the earliest to fill the high-echelon personnel vacuum speedily, U said.

The officials who resigned included Yi Ki-chang, director of the General Construction Headquarters: Kim Mun-chong, Municipal Financial Bureau chief: Yi Mun-chae, Tongjak Ward chief: Ho Chae-ku, Yangchon Ward chief: and Chong Tong-su, Songbuk Ward chief: Yun Tae-kyong, director of the Grand Seoul Pak Management Office: and Chae Hong-sik, director of the Municipal Computer Center.

Minister Departs for Tokyo, UN, Washington

SK2309112793 Seoul YONHAP in English 1019 GMT 23 Sep 93

[Text] Seoul, Sept. 23 (YONHAP)—Foreign Minister Han Sung-chu left on Thursday evening on an 11-day trip taking him to Tokyo, the U.N. General Assembly and Washington.

He delivers a keynote speech at the United Nations on Sept. 29 (local time) declaring South Korea's bid for two-year non-permanent seat on the security council. He has talks scheduled with 27 heads of state and foreign ministers during his stay at the United Nations on bilateral and regional issues, with North Korea's nuclear situation a high priority. Foreign ministers' meetings with China, Japan and the United States will include setting summit dates.

Han stops by Tokyo first for his first encounter with Japan's new administration under Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa. He will meet with his counterpart, Tsutomu Hata, to discuss future bilateral relations and get a firm declaration of the new administration's policy on the Korean peninsula.

He makes a one-day visit to Washington for tightly scheduled talks with U.S. administrative and State Department officials on Pyongyang's nuclear problem.

Presidential Reunification Strategies Viewed

SK2109141093 Seoul CHUNGANG ILBO in Korean 20 Sep 93 p 4

[Report on WOLGAN CHUNGANG October article by Kim Tu-u entitled "The Secret Strategies of Four Close Aids of YS, President Kim Yong-sam, on New State Management"]

[Text] It was learned that the reunification strategy and "secret" strategies for international politics, which will be implemented during President Kim Yong-sam's term of office, are in the final stage. His ideas and plans will not be made public in consideration of relations with pertinent countries. As they will play the essential role in diplomatic and reunification policies for the next five years, the people's interest in them is very great.

The October edition of WOLGAN CHUNGANG carries an article written by Kim Tu-u after collecting various information and materials, entitled "The Secret Strategies of Four Close Aids of YS [President Kim Yong-sam] on New State Management." The gist of the article is as follows:

Concerning this issue, research teams are presently operating in Chongwadae [presidential office], the National Unification Board, the Foreign Ministry, and Agency for National Security Planning [NSP]. They are expected to complete research at an early date and will report the results to President Kim.

Research Teams Are in Full Operation

Experts on foreign affairs and reunification, including Pak Kwan-yong, chief presidential secretary in Chongwadae; Chong Chong-uk, senior presidential secretary for foreign affairs and security; Han Wan-sang, deputy prime minister in the cabinet; Han Sung-chu, Foreign Minister; and Kim Tok, the NSP director, explained their own ideas and plans to President Kim in individual meetings. President Kim is now reviewing them for acceptance.

The object of President Kim's and the experts' on diplomacy and security affairs plans is that they will realize "the North-South alliance [yonhap]" by 1995 at the earliest and by 1997, which is still within President Kim's term of office, at the latest.

Their plan is that the two sides will enter into the state of peaceful coexistence through exchange of people while maintaining their respective political systems intact and retaining their rights on diplomacy and defense issues. Needless to say, a reduction in arms would also be realized.

A high-ranking government official explains that such a state is "an alliance of states in a relaxed [nusunhan] formula." This plan reflects the idea that "the South will not reunify with the North through absorption" and even reflects the sense of crisis that if North Korea collapses, "common collapse" of the North and the South will also result. Therefore, their idea is that they will actively support North Korea's economic development so that reunification expenses will be minimized and so that North Korea will take the course of breaking away from socialism in a stable manner.

The problem is that judging from intelligence available at present, the indication and possibility of internal collapse of North Korea are greater than ever before. Therefore, there is no way for our government to convey its "true intention." Thus, our government plans to inform Kim

Il-song and Kim Chong-il of our genuine intention when the exchange of special envoys of the North and the South is realized.

Minimization of Reunification Expenses

Our government has also established a principle to actively support North Korea so that it joins the multilateral cooperative system in the Asia-Pacific region with a view to preventing it from isolation.

The view on reunification of President Kim and the experts corresponds with the strategy to make inroads into northeast Asia. It means they have mapped out a strategy of expanding business activities to the northern part of Manchuria and the Maritime Province of Russia so that it can effect North Korea. This originates from the notion that aims at "restoring" the former territory of the Koguryo and Balhae dynasties [former Korea] in an economical sense, not a territorial one.

China and Russia are gearing up efforts to attract foreign capital for the development of these regions. Moreover, the culture of China and Russia are not much different from that of Korea and many Koreans live in the regions, which is favorable.

There is no doubt that China and Russia seem to be aware of the ROK Government's intentions. They are not making particular moves due to their sentiments to check Japan and the desperate need to develop their economy. China and Russia both hope that the ROK Government and businesses make an investment in their countries.

Such a notion coincides with an assertion that the ROK needs at least an economic population of a hundred million to join the ranks of advanced countries. The ROK Government has even made a blueprint of a concentrated investment in the regions, thereby providing a great deal of economic assistance to the Koreans living across China and Russia.

The government, nonetheless, plans to press ahead cautiously with this policy of not causing disruption or conflicts among the Korean residents in Russia and China, and not to incite unnecessary misunderstandings in pertinent countries.

Economy as a Burden

President Kim has set up a diplomatic goal during his term in office: Joining the UN Security Council as a permanent member or as a nonpermanent member without the veto right. There is high possibility that the system of being a permanent member without veto rights will be introduced and that the number of permanent members will be increased, in case the charter is revised at the UN General Assembly next fall. In particular, President Kim's idea is based on the assumption that some kind of plan could be framed when considering the fact that Japan and Germany have an eye on becoming permanent members.

It has been learned that the international political under-the-table work has already begun for the realization of President Kim's idea. The ROK Government maintains the position that it will not forcefully press ahead with this plan as it did in the past.

It goes without saying that the precondition for this sort of rosy dream toward the year 2000 is the revitalization of economy. President Kim and the experts on foreign affairs and reunification seem to recognize this point well.

ROK, GEC Alsthom Begin Talks on Railway Project

SK2209111593 Seoul YONHAP in English 0749 GMT 22 Sep 93

[Text] Seoul, Sept. 22 (YONHAP)—The Korean High-Speed Railway Construction Authority (KHSR) and GEC Alsthom of France will begin serious contract talks on the multibillion-dollar high-speed railway on Thursday. The two had three days of preliminary discussions and went into regular negotiations that may result in finalizing the choice of TGV (Train a Grande Vitesse) for the Seoul-Pusan high-speed railway project.

The French bidder was announced priority negotiator, or virtual winner, for the contract after neck-to-neck competition with its German rival, Siemens AG, on Aug. 20. The Korean authority will press for a lower price and better conditions in technology trasfer and localization and go through item by item with the Anglo-French company.

If the talks end smoothly, the contract will be awarded to GEC Alsthom, which will then have to deliver two bullet trains by 1997 ready for the opening of Chonan-Taejon line and 12 trains by 1999. It is obliged to supply 32 sets by 2001, when the Seoul-Pusan track is to open, with 50 percent of them localized.

Government Plan To Lure Hidden Money Into Industry

SK2409093193 Seoul YONHAP in English 0452 GMT 24 Sep 93

[Text] Seoul, Sept. 24 (YONHAP)—The government announced a follow-up package Friday for the real-name financial transactions system to lure funds still hiding in false or borrowed names to invest in industry. The announcement was made jointly by Economic Planning Minister Yi Kyong-sik, Finance Minister Hong Chae-hyong and National Tax Commissioner Chu Kyong-sok.

The government will float 10-year bonds bearing interest rates of 1 percent and 3 percent a year for people shifting money from false- or borrowed-name accounts to real-name ones. The bonds, in denominations of 50 million won, will carry an interest rate of 1 percent for those shifting 3 billion won or more from false-name accounts to real-name accounts and 3 percent for those shifting smaller amounts.

Corporations engaged in normal business activity as of Aug. 12, when the real-name system was put into effect, will face no tax audit if they shift from false-name to real-name accounts within the grace period ending Oct. 11 and pay corporate tax on book income due to such transfer. These corporations must be in the manufacturing,

mining construction, export, tourism, transportation, agricultural, forestry or fisheries sectors.

Small businesses with annual sales of less than 36 million won will face no tax audit even if their tax base has increased as a result of the shift from pseudonymous real-name accounts.

ROK To Launch Scientific Satellite 24 Sep

SK2309094993 Seoul YONHAP in English 9708 GMT 23 Sep 93

[Text] Seoul, Sept. 23 (YONHAP)—South Korea's second scientific satellite, self-designed and localized, will be launched Saturday morning by an Ariane rocket from French Guiana. All preparations for launching the satellite have been finished thanks to good local weather and countdown is expected to begin at 10:27 PM Friday (KST), or 12 hours before the launching, as scheduled, according to a report filed by launch observers with the Science and Technology Ministry Thursday. Uribyol II will be accompanied by six satellites from France, Britain, Portugal and Italy in its trip into space.

It cost the Korea Advanced Institute of Science and Technology (KAIST) 2.9 billion won (3.5 million U.S. dollars) for the 67-centimeter-tall and 50-kilogram satellite to be born in the Taedok research center last June after nine months of manufacturing. It has a life of five years.

Uribyol, carrying two cameras, a 32-byte computer, a particle detector, an infrared ray locator and various communications equipment, will be lofted into orbit 820 kilometers high and circle the globe once every 101 minutes for weather observation and communications tests.

It was initially scheduled for launch on Sept. 1, but there was a delay of more than three weeks due to a technical problem in a French satellite. The satellite team made improvements to Uribyol II with the know-how from the successful launch of the first satellite in August last year and used 827 made-in-Korea accessories, including computer memory chips and transistors, out of a total of 12,165 parts.

Japan's Ozawa on DPRK Nuclear, Other Issues

SK2309122993 Seoul CHOSON ILBO in Korean 23 Sep 93 p 1

[Report by Tokyo-based correspondent Pu Chi-yong]

[Text] Ozawa, senior secretary of Japan's Sinseito Party who is a behind-the-scenes real power holder in the Japanese Hosokawa government, said that "we are worried that if the present situation continues, North Korea's nuclear armament could be completed. We regard this as a pending crisis."

He said this in an exclusive interview by In Po-kil, CHOSON ILBO's editor-in-chief, held recently in Tokyo. Secretary Ozawa explicitly stated that "the North Korean nuclear issue is a most important precondition for establishing diplomatic relations between North Korea and Japan, and without resolution to the nuclear issue, negotiations for establishment of diplomatic relations between the two countries cannot be held." He stressed that to settle this pending crisis, concrete practical measures by international communities including the United States and United Nations are necessary.

Secretary Ozawa said that in the event that North Korea, which is pursuing nuclear armament, creates trouble on the Korean peninsula, "Japan can cooperate in resolving the Korean issue as a member of the United Nations forces on the premise that the ROK Government agrees."

Concerning the recent Northeast Asian situation, he said that "China's armament expansion is not desirable at all," thus showing deep concern, and stated that "if a chance is provided, I will convey the Japanese side's concern to China."

Concerning the issue of responsibility for the war which has recently become an issue between the ROK and Japan, Secretary Ozawa noted that "it is true that there were acts of direct aggression by Japan against peoples of many nations in the past amid whirlpool of war." He said that he will see to it that Japan clearly apologizes and seeks a solution to the issue of responsibility for the war in the parliament. Noting that Korea and Japan are nations with brotherly ties in all aspects including history and geography, he called on both countries to discard adherence only to the past for the sake of future-oriented Japan-Korea relations.

Concerning the deployement of the Japan self-defense forces overseas and his own view on the plan of establishing the UN standing peace-keeping forces, he stressed that "deployment" of the Japanese troops overseas was made in accordance with judgment and request of the United Nations. Accordingly, deployment is not based on the Japanese Government's own judgment. He added that the Japanese Self-Defense Forces can be reduced to the minimum for the sake of cooperation with the United Nations.

Concerning the schedule of political reform in Japan, he predicted that the general elections will be held only after autumn next year the earliest and said that a large-scale political reorganization involving the incumbent Liberal Democratic Party and Social Democratic Party will be carried out when the general elections are visibly scheduled. He added that either Hosokawa, the incumbent prime minister, or Hata, the incumbent foreign minister, will become the Japanese prime minister at that time.

ROK, Canada Hold Talks on Telecommunications

SK2309122393 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 23 Sep 93 p 3

[Text] Korea and Canada have agreed to cross-recognize the results of telecommunications tests in each other's country in their first bilateral meeting which ended Tuesday. The first Korea-Canada talks on telecommunications policies was held for a two-day run at the Communications Ministry to enhance cooperative relations between the two countries.

The Korean side was led by Pak Song-tuk, assistant minister for telecommunications policies, while the Canadian delegation was headed by Michael Binder, assistant minister for industrial science.

The two delegations engaged in talks on wide-ranging issues including details of their respective telecommunications policies, ministry officials said yesterday. They also discussed the current status and future prospects of domestic cellular telephone services and market, areas in which Canada has been expressing keen interest.

In addition, the two delegations exchanged information on the latest developments in satellite technologies with respect to the launching of the two Koreasat satellites in 1995. "One of the most important issues at hand was the standardization of telecommunications products and services so as to enable companies of the two countries to engage in businesses in each other's territory in the near future," one official explained. In this regard, he said, the two countries reached a general understanding on the exchange of related information so as to keep each other updated on the latest developments in their respective countries.

U.S. Commission Drops ROK Sanctions Threat

SK2409045693 Seoul YONHAP in English 0154 GMT 24 Sep 93

[Text] Seoul, Sept. 24 (YONHAP)—The U.S. Federal Maritime Commission (FMC) has withdrawn threats of sanctions against South Korean maritime businesses operating on American soil after more than a year of deliberation, the Foreign Ministry said Friday. Some 50 Korean freight forwarders and non-vessle operating common carriers in the United States are now free from sanctions that would have included license cancellation.

In July last year, the FMC announced a set of preparatory measures for sanctions against the Korean maritime businesses based on complaints from U.S. companies against Seoul's 50 percent investment limit on foreign freight forwarders. The commission delayed putting the sanctions into effect until September 1993 after Korea promised to lift the investment limit by June in maritime talks with the United States.

But the FMC did not withdraw the threat until Friday although the investment limit was scrapped and it announced on Aug. 16 that it would deliberate on the measures for another 60 days, ministry officials said.

Seoul officials protested the U.S. decision at trade talks earlier this month and demanded that the commission immediately repeal the sanctions.

Firms To Stop Pursuit of Investment in Russia

SK2409093093 Seoul YONHAP in English 0101 GMT 24 Sep 93

[Text] Seoul, Sept. 24 (YONHAP)—The political turmoil in Russia has scared off South Korean corporate investment, industry sources said Friday. Major business groups are keeping abreast of the developments in Russia since President Boris Yeltsin declared dissolution of parliament and called for an early general election on Wednesday through reports from their offices there, the sources said. They are said to have decided to put off direct investment and suspend shipments except for planned exports until the volatile political situation calms down.

The Daewoo Group, which had been active in seeking joint ventures to build electronics and bus assembly lines in St. Petersburg, says the project is off for the time being. Lucky-Goldstar says it won't pursue advancement into Russia until late this year on condition that the parliamentary elections have a concrete outcome.It will fulfill current orders, but suspend new contracts and long-term shipments to the country.

The Hanhwa Group, known to have been making great inroads into the Soviet bloc and Eastern Europe, will put off investment talks with Russia and Georgia for now. "The Russian political state had been shaky several times this year, which could have damaged bilateral exchanges and investment, but we were okay every time," a source said. "Reformers may get the better of the situation as they have support from the people, military, and western countries and our worries may prove premature," he said.

The sources said that the investment environment might worsen if the conservatists seize power and shrink the market economy. Russia may become more stable and its market may be more accessible once the power struggle between reformers and conservatists is over, a Korea Trade Promotion Corp. director for Russia said.

ROK To Pledge Aid for Palestinian Reconstruction

SK2409094193 Seoul YONHAP in English 0638 GMT 24 Sep 93

[Text] Seoul, Sept. 24 (YONHAP)—South Korean Foreign Minister Han Sung-chu will attend an international conference in Washington, D.C., on Oct. 1 and pledge his country's contribution to Palestinian reconstruction, ministry officials said Friday.

Han will fly to the U.S. capital during his visit to the U.N. General Assembly next week at the invitation of President Bill Clinton, who is sponsoring the international conference of donor countries on rehabilitating the strife-damaged Middle East, the officials said. The U.S. State Department had sent an invitation dated Sept. 21 asking the foreign minister to participate, they said.

Han is not expected to declare specific amounts or methods of contributing at the conference, and the officials say Korea's donations will be in materials and infrastructure construction rather than in cash.

Major donor nations have already declared their contributions, including 250 million U.S. dollars by the United States, 590 million dollars by the European Community and 125 million dollars by Nordic countries. "We have to discuss with other ministries what and how we can donate. We will announce the details after due consultations in the government," said Pyon Chong-kyu, director-general of the Middle East and African affairs bureau.

The Foreign Ministry said, however, it will wait on recognizing the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) as an independent state and further watch implementation of the Gaza-Jericho peace accord. A total of 65 countries currently recognize the PLO as a state.

Burma

Foreign Minister Returns From Brunei 23 Sep

BK2409105593 Rangoon Burma Television Network in Burmese 1330 GMT 23 Sep 93

[Text] U Ohn Gyaw, minister of foreign affairs, arrived back in Yangon [Rangoon] by air today evening from Brunei Darussalam after a goodwill visit at the invitation of Foreign Minister Prince Muda Hajee Mohamed Bolkiah. During his visit, U Ohn Gyaw held talks on topics of mutual interest with (?royal palace officials) and the foreign minister and established diplomatic relations. The minister was welcomed at Yangon airport by Lieutenant General Maung Thint, minister of development of border areas and national races; Brigadier General Myo Thant, minister of information; U Nyunt Swe, deputy minister of foreign affairs; directors general from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs; and responsible personnel.

New Constitution To Ensure Minority Rights

BK2409070093 Hong Kong AFP in English 1902 GMT 23 Sep 93

[Text] Rangoon, Sept 24 (AFP)—Burma's new constitution will ensure that no national minority group is deprived of its rights and that each is protected from ethnic persecution, an official newspaper said.

THE NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR said Thursday that principles adopted at the now recessed constitutional national convention here provided for self administered areas or zones for ethnic minorities with no separate states of their own.

According to the principles, a special state commission is to be formed for the purpose of defining the rights of various national groups so that none of them would be deprived of their rights.

The newspaper hailed the measures as the "essence of democracy" adding that they would contribute to the "consolidation of national unity and strengthening of national sovereighty."

Burma has been plagued by ethnic insurgencies since gaining independence from the Britain in 1948, although several groups have responded to government calls to give up armed struggle and join the military's efforts towards national development. The provision of rights for all national peoples was not included in Burma's two previous constitutions.

Burma presently has seven states—Shan, Kachin, Karen, Kayah, Mon, Arakan and Chin—with substantial populations of other minority groups residing within them.

62 'Terrorist' Insurgents Surrender in August

BK2309091793 Rangoon Radio Burma in Burmese 0630 GMT 23 Sep 93

[Text] Terrorist insurgents, who have come to realize the genuine goodwill and activities of the State Law and Order Restoration Council [SLORC], have been surrendering at various military camps. The following surrendered during 22-31 August:

Southern Military Command: Private Than Win from the ABSDF's [All Burma Students' Democratic Front] 210th Battalion surrendered at the Thandaunggyi camp with one M-16 assault rifle.

Northwest Military Command: Hway Kyone alias Khine Soe, who held a position of a captain from the Kuki Chin insurgents, surrendered at the Thangtlang outpost.

Southeast Military Command: Pvt. Myint Tun from the Maung Ne La faction of the Burma Communist Party gave himself up at the Mergui garrison. Pvt. Han Win Aung from the 4th company, 2d Battalion, of the Karen insurgent organization surrendered at the Bilin garrison. Sergeant Kyaw Thaung from the Phar Aw Hti group of No.1 Brigade gave himself up at the Minpasut camp. Pvt. Myint Htoo surrendered with a .38 Browning Pistol at the Taungthonlone outpost. Ma Aung Thuzar, wife of Leikpyar, the leader of regional guerrilla group, surrendered with a 9mm pistol and a hand grenade at the Mergui garrison. Pvts. Naing U and Win Thant from the Po Cho faction of ABSDF's 203d Battalion gave themselves up with one AK-47 assault rifle and one M-14 land mine at the Kanpaw Naval garrison. Pvt. Myo Nyunt Aung, a communications personnel, surrendered at the Kawthaung garrison. Pvts. Soe Tun and Naing U from Nga Tauk faction surrendered with two AK-47 assault rifles at the Nyaungbinyin garrison.

Northern Military Command: Pvt. Tin Tun from the 11st Battalion of the Kachin insurgent group gave himself up at the Namti garrison. Pvt. Ma Khin May Si from the 6th Battalion also surrendered at the Namti garrison. Sgt. Ma Saw Saw Win from the ABSDF central group gave herself up at the Myitkyina garrison.

Eastern Military Command: Pvt. Aung Tun from the no.1 Battalion of the Kayan terrorist insurgent organization surrendered at the Pekon garrison.

All together 62 terrorist insurgents, who have come to realize the truth, surrendered between 1 and 31 August.

515 Rohingyas Repatriated From Bangladesh 21 Sep

BK2309150693 Rangoon Radio Burma in Burmese 1330 GMT 23 Sep 93

[Text] In accordance with the coordinated agreement reached between the two countries on the repatriation of those who illegally left Myanmar [Burma] for Bangladesh, a delegation led by camp supervisor Mr. (Abdul Bashika) from the country on the other side transferred 515 returnees—267 males and 248 females—from 104 households to our Kanyinchaung reception center at 1000 on the morning of 21 September 1993. The returnees were brought in by 11 motorboats.

Malaysia

Advance Army Troops Leave for Bosnia 21 Sep

BK2109101693 Kuala Lumpur BERNAMA in English 0938 GMT 21 Sep 93

[Text] Butterworth, Sept 21 (OANA/BERNAMA)—Malaysian troops under the United Nations in Bosnia will be stationed in a critical area south of Sarajevo, Army Chief Gen Borhan Ahmad said Tuesday. He said the area was now manned by French troops. Our troops will also be stationed there until April next year, he said after sending off the first batch of 19 armed forces personnei, led by Major Adnan Abu Bakar, who left for Bosnia from the Royal Malaysian Air Force base (RMAF) here. He said the area to the south of Sarajevo was among the critical areas in the conflict between Bosnian Muslims and the Serbs.

Gen Borhan said the advance party would be responsible for providing early information on the situation there and logistics requirement for the Malaysian troops. He said the assignment in Bosnia was one of the most challenging tasks for the Malaysian troops as it was the first assignment in a European country. The parties involved in the conflict were also using modern weapons, he said.

Addressing the officers, Gen Borhan warned them against interfering in the political and religious affairs of the people there as their task was only to ensure peace and security in the country.

Arrives in Zagreb for UN Service

BK2409052493 Kuala Lumpur BERNAMA in English 0350 GMT 24 Sep 93

[Text] Kuala Lumpur, Sept. 24 (OANA-BERNAMA)—The advance party of 19 Malaysian military personnel arrived safely in Zagreb Thursday to serve with UNPROFOR, the United Nations Protection Force in Bosnia-Herzegovina. Malaysian Chief of Army Gen. Borhan Ahmad said the party left on Tuesday and had stopped over in Karachi and Cairo. The next batch of about 200 men would leave on Sept. 30 to prepare for the arrival of the rest of the 1,500-strong Malaysian contingent in November. If all goes well, they should all be in Bosnia by middle or by the end of November, he told reporters here.

Cabinet Approves Recruitment of Foreign Scientists

BK2209053293 Kuala Lumpur BERNAMA in English 0318 GMT 22 Sep 93

[Text] Kuala Lumpur, Sept. 22 (OANA-BERNAMA)—The Malaysian Cabinet has given the green light to the private sector to recruit foreign scientists to conduct research and development activities. Deputy Science, Technology, and Environment Minister Peter Chin said Tuesday the move was only temporary to ease the shortage of experts in science and technology. At present some companies had recruited scientists from China, Pakistan, India, and Russia, he said. As a long-term measure, the government was carrying out a study to introduce incentives and an attractive scheme of service to resolve the shortage of scientists, he said.

The study was to draw up a programme to resolve the shortage, formulate attractive service conditions and incentives like salary and housing loans to scientists. He said Malaysian (?high commissioners) had been asked to conduct a study on the (?number of Malaysian scientists) employed overseas and run advertisements wooing them to return home. The country's present scientist-to-population ratio is 400 to one million and the government wanted to increase it to 1,000 scientists to one million people by year 2000, he said.

3-Day Joint Oil Spill Combat Exercise Launched

BK2209124493 Kuala Lumpur BERNAMA in English 0646 GMT 22 Sep 93

[Excerpt] Singapore, Sept 22 (OANA-BERNAMA)—Some 3,000 tonnes of oil spilled into the sea when two vessels, a loaded crude oil tanker and a bulk-carrier in ballast, collided about 5 km southeast of Sultan Shoal lighthouse. With the westward tidal flow, the spill could threaten the shores of Indonesia and Malaysia. On receiving a report of the incident, the Port of Singapore Authority (PSA) activated its marine emergency action procedure and coordinated all resources to combat the oil spill. An Emegency Operations Committee (EOC), which controls and coordinates clean-up operations, was convened. The EOC also informed the local, as well as Malaysian and Indonesian authorities of the incident and alerted them on the clean-up operations.

This was the scenario of a three-day joint oil spill combat exercise under the Revolving Fund Committee (RFC) to combat oil pollution in the Straits of Melaka and Singapore. Through the exercise, PSA hoped to test the response by local parties in the event of an oil spill in the Straits of Singapore, as well as the resources and equipment available to combat a major oil spill.

The exercise would also test [word indistinct] communication links with Indonesia and Malaysia, which are vital in the event of an oil spill. Under the RFC, the resources and equipmect of the three countries could be used to combat oil spill in the Straits of Melaka and Singapore when requested by any one of the three countries. [passage omitted]

Cambodia

Assembly Closes, New Constitution Promulgated

Deputies Celebrate Assembly Closing

BK2209072793 Phnom Penh National Voice of Cambodia Radio Network in Cambodian 0430 GMT 22 Sep 93

[Text] The Constituent Assembly hosted as reception at the Cambodiana Hotel on the night of 21 September to

celebrate the second plenary session of the Constituent Assembly, which was successful and lasted for six days.

Attending this reception were Excellency Samdech Son Sann, chairman of the Constituent Assembly; His Excellency [H.E.] Chea Sim, first vice chairman of the Constituent Assembly; H.E. Ing Kiet, second vice chairman of the Constituent Assembly; Prince Kromluong Norodom Ranariddh and H.E. Hun Sen, cochairmen of the Provisional National Government of Cambodia; and people's representatives from the 21 constituencies in the Kingdom of Cambodia.

Sihanouk Arrives for Promulgation

BK2309122293 Phnom Penh AKP in English 1031 GMT 23 Sep 93

[Text] Phnom Penh AKP September 23—Cambodian Head of State Prince Norodom Sihanouk arrived here this afternoon to promulgate the country's new constitution which was overwhelmingly approved by the Constituent Assembly.

The prince accompanied by his wife Princess Monique was greeted at Pochentong Airport by Constituent Assembly Chairman Son Sann, Constituent Assembly Deputies Chea Sim and Ing Kiet, Co-presidents of the Provisional National Government Samdech Kromluong Norodom Ranariddh and H.E. Hun Sen, and members of government and army as well as hundreds of thousands of people of Cambodia. Members of the diplomatic corps accredited in Phnom Penh were also present on his arrival.

The Cambodian head of state is expected to receive this evening a Chinese diplomat who will present credentials to the prince in replacement of Mr. Fu Xuezhang, permanent representative of China to Cambodia.

The prince will sign on Friday the degree promulgating the constitution in the throne room of the royal palace, paving the way for him to become the king. After that he will honour a mass meeting in the ballroom (Chanchhaya) of the royal palace to welcome the new constitution.

According to a message to his compatriots, the prince said he has to leave Cambodia on September 29 to Beijing where he will be given operation to remove a tumour near his prostate.

Sihanouk Signs Constitution

BK2409034893 Hong Kong AFP in English 0308 GMT 24 Sep 93

[By Sheri Prasso]

[Text] Phnom Penh, Sept 24 (AFP)—Cambodia's Prince Norodom Sihanouk signed each page of the country's new Constitution in the gold-gilded Throne Hall on Friday, ending the United Nations mandate over this Southeast Asian country.

The signature ceremony took place under colorful fresco scenes of the epic Ramayana in the Royal Palace in front of the 120 members of the National Assembly—all wearing black stockings and traditional knickers-style pants made of purple silk, called chong kben—the diplomatic corps and leaders of the U.N. Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC). The signature, the subsequent naming of the country's two co-prime ministers and Prince Sihanouk's ascension to the throne later in the day, ends the 18-month UNTAC mandate in Cambodia.

"On this historic day, I have the honor to offer to the National Assembly, the representatives of the people of Cambodia, the promulgation of this constitution appointing our people the masters of the land, the water and the state power from now on, forever and ever," the prince said after he laboriously read and signed every page of the document which was adopted by the assembly on Tuesday.

Arriving at the foot of the stairs entering the Throne Hall, the prince was greeted by an honor guard and the national anthem. Inside, the leaders of the Cambodian Government were lined up to greet him. The prince was then seated at a table lined with gold fabric, in front of the gilded platform traditionally used in royal processions, in order to sign the document.

After the signing, the assembly members applauded and followed Prince Sihanouk out the front door of the Royal Palace, where he walked among the people and was to deliver a speech to the assembled crowd.

The constitution sets up a Throne Council that was due to meet later Friday to elect Prince Sihanouk as king, giving him powers as supreme commander of the armed forces, and the power to approve appointments and removals of cabinet mininsters.

"The king rules but does not govern," is the first article of the chapter defining the king's powers.

But some local human rights groups and U.N. officials have expressed fears that loopholes will allow the prince to exercise power.

Prince Sihanouk returned Thursday to Phnom Penh from Beijing, where he was receiving medical treatment for a tumor near his prostate gland. He was due to return there next week to continue treatment.

Constitution Called 'Masterpiece'

BK2409054093 Hong Kong AFP in English 0529 GMT 24 Sep 93

[Text] Phnom Penh, Sept 24 (AFP)—Cambodia's Prince Norodom Sihanouk hailed the country's new constitution as a "masterpiece" of democracy Friday in an address to 4,000 people on the grassy lawn of the Royal Palace.

"It is indisputable that as of today, our beloved Cambodia and people possess the most democratic and most liberal constitution which places our country in the ranks of the most authentically democratic countries of the world," the prince said, speaking under the shade of his royal parasol from the palace's front portal after signing each page of the document.

The prince appeared composed and more subdued than usual, but otherwise seemed in good health despite the heat and his treatment in Beijing for a tumor near his prostate gland. The crowd included 96 Khmer Rouge defectors newly outfitted in uniforms of the united Cambodian Armed Forces.

"The Cambodian people have accepted to make sacrifices in order to realize this very advanced democratization and to arrive at this ultimate stage of democracy, where the people are and will always be the true masters of all power and their own destiny," he said.

"To arrive at such a result, the Cambodian people had to confront enormous and numerous difficulties and endure prolonged suffering," he said.

Prince Sihanouk called the document, which sets up a constitutional monarchy that will re-install him to the throne after a 38-year absence, "a true masterpiece that neglects no aspect of human rights, women's rights and children's rights."

"I congratulate all my beloved compatriots who have had their glorious part in the conception, drafting, finalizing and adopting this constitution of which the Cambodian people and nation can be proud," he said.

His address was followed by speeches by his son Prince Norodom Ranariddh and the U.N. peacekeeping chief Yasushi Akashi. Akashi, who is due to leave Cambodia on Sunday, lauded the United Nations' contribution to the Cambodian peace process.

"The United Nations, representing the international community, is proud to have successfully accomplished in Cambodia one of its most ambitious and complex peace operations," he said.

"Some say that a choice must be made between freedom and unity, between democracy and propserity," Akashi said. "I am one of those who believes that a judicious balance and harmony can be struck between these values and objectives."

"I believe that Cambodia is a striking demonstration to the world that an intractable conflict can be resolved and seemingly irreconcilable views can be reconciled.

AKP Cites Sihanouk Remarks

BK2409121193 Phnom Penh AKP in English 1021 GMT 24 Sep 93

[Text] Phnom Penh AKP September 24—Samdech Preah Norodom Sihanouk, head of state of Cambodia, signed at the royal palace's throne hall this morning the decree promulgating the country's new Constitution adopted Tuesday by the Constituent Assembly in a secret ballot with more than two-third majority.

Present at the signing ceremony were Mr. Son Sann, president of the Constituent Assembly; and his two deputies, Mr. Chea Sim and Ing Kiet; co-presidents of the interim government, Sdach Kromluong Norodom Ranariddh and Mr. Hun Sen; the dignataries of the two Buddhist sects as well as high ranking officials who are members of the interim government and parliament.

The U.N. representatives, Japanese Yasushi Akashi and Australian General John Sanderson and members of diplomatic corps were also present at the signing ceremony to promulgate the historical document of the country.

According to the new Constitution of 14 chapters with 139 articles, Cambodia is under the most democratic and liberal constitutional monarchy in which "the king reigns but does not govern".

Prince Norodom Sihanouk, who will be king of Cambodia, cannot, as provided by the new Constitution, choose his heir who will, instead, be chosen by the throne council among the three royal family lines—the Ang Duong, Norodom, and Sisowat.

Upon his arrival at Pochentong Airport yesterday Prince Sihanouk declared that the Cambodian people would, from now on, be the sole master of their destiny.

"Naturally we respect the human rights," added the prince who pledged to have a "free market economy and free enterprise".

Samdech Norodom Sihanouk arrived here yesterday afternoon from Beijing where he had received medical treatment.

He will be crowned Cambodian king Friday afternoon and stay in Phnom Penh till Wednesday before returning to China to have further tests before undergoing surgery of a tumour near the prostate gland.

Sihanouk Lets DPRK Use Residence as Embassy

BK2309062593 Phnom Penh AKP in French 0446 GMT 23 sep 93

[Text] Phnom Penh 23 sep (AKP)—Prince Norodom Sihanouk on Monday, 20 September, sent a letter from Beijing to Mr. Kim Yong-nam, vice prime minister and minister of foreign affairs of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, saying that he has placed his residence in Pyongyang at the disposal of that country to use as the embassy of Cambodia.

In the letter, the Cambodian head of state stressed:

"I place at the full and exclusive disposal of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea the use as its embassy to Cambodia my native villa with its compound, and this as a favor, for 20 years instead of 10. This is a humble gesture that I have the honor and duty to make in fervent homage to his excellency the venerated and beloved great leader of the Korean nation, his excellency the beloved and respected mentor of the Korean people, of whom my wife and I will never forget the multiple acts of kindness so nobly and generously showered upon our persons from 1970 to these years of the 1990's."

Ranariddh—Cabinet To Be Trimmed By 6 Members

BK2309065193 Phnom Penh AKP in French 0447 GMT 23 sep 93

[Excerpt] Phnom Penh 23 sep (AKP)—[Passage omitted] Prince Ranariddh said that the new Cabinet would be trimmed down from 27 to 21 members. On the other hand, the Cabinet list would be announced only at the beginning of October after the UN General Assembly in New York next week.

The government formation will mark the official end to the UN mandate in Cambodia after a 15-month mission, one of the most costly in the history of the United Nations at two billion dollars.

"Its priorities are to resolve first the Khmer Rouge issue and then that of security," affirmed Prince Ranariddh.

The adoption of the constitution constitutes another hard blow to the Khmer Rouge who are weakened by military setbacks and desertions, shut out politically, and isolated on the international stage.

"They have no choice. Either they join the national community, in conformity with all its laws, or they become outlaws," the prince warned.

The polpotist faction, which has supported the restoration of Prince Sihanouk, must take part in a roundtable with the Phnom Penh authorities at the beginning of October to discuss its demands, especially its request for the role of "adviser" in the government.

Whether the guerrilla chiefs join the national reconciliation process or not, "their days are numbered," reckoned Prince Ranariddh.

Indonesia

Further on Visit by Philippines President

Suharto, Ramos Hold Talks

BK2209071693 Quezon City Radio Filipinas in English 0230 GMT 22 Sep 93

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] President Ramos took the opportunity to thank President Suharto for hosting the exploratory talks in Cipanas between the Philippine government negotiators and the Moro National Liberation Front.

President Ramos acknowledged that because of the preliminary talks hosted by Indonesia, the peace process has moved forward. Part of the formal negotiations to finally put an end to the secessionist movement in southern Philippines, will also be held in Indonesia.

President Ramos underscored the need for the Philippines and Indonesia to look first to each other in resolving challenges and exploiting opportunities in their respective countries. It's in this time of challenge and opportunities, I dare say, Mr. President, that we have to look first of all to each other, living next to each other multiplies our potential for mutual beneficial economic and cultural interactions across our common borders, he [Ramos] said.

President Ramos pointed out to the initiatives being undertaken by their respective people near the border areas, reaching out again to each other. They have engaged in such activities as cross-border trades, trade fairs, economic conferences, investments and regional tourism.

He also cited the limitless opportunities open to both countries once direct communications and transportation linkages are completed for the border region. Yesterday, the two leaders agreed on the need for feeder [commuter] airlines which would service the envisioned growth triangle area involving southern Philippines, eastern Indonesia and northern Malaysia. The proposal for a common commuter air service system came up during the one-on-one talks at the Merdeka Palace here.

Foreign Affairs Undersecretary Rod Severino briefed Filipino and Indonesian newsmen on the closed door talks which he said were summarized for him by Mr. Ramos himself. He said the talks, described as relaxed and friendly, gave importance to the concept of a growth area in Mindanao and eastern Indonesia which could be open to participation by other countries, especially Malaysia. They expressed their full support for private sector activities and discussed the establishment of the feeder airline to service the border areas.

Severino said the two leaders were thinking in terms of a feeder airline to be put up jointly by Indonesia's Garuda, Philippine Airlines and Malaysian Airline System, and possibly Royal Brunei Airlines. He expects officials of these airlines to get together soon to look over an existing concept paper which studied air routes, terminals and fare structure, among others. The concept paper, Severino said, saw the feeder airline linking the hinterlands of the southeast Asian countries which are contiguous to each other.

In the same manner, President Ramos and Suharto also recognized the need for regular shipping services in the coastal areas that adjoin the border regions. To regulate this, including fishing activities, the two presidents instructed their senior officials to continue talks with a view to concluding agreement on matters affecting their maritime borders.

To thresh out the Ramos-Suharto talks, Philippine and Indonesian officials will also explore more ways of promoting greater trade and tourism, particularly in the border areas. They're aware that the volume of tourism exchanges between their two countries is quite low and that no increase is forthcoming. But they said the focus of effort should be cooperative activities to attract people from other countries to visit the Indonesian-RP [Republic of the Philippines] border regions.

Severino said that Mr. Ramos invited President and Madam Suharto to visit the Philippines in the near future. He said Mr. Ramos told him that Suharto readily accepted the invitation and looked forward to the visit on a date to be agreed upon through diplomatic channels.

Suharto expressed the hope that Mr. Ramos' visit will be followed up by exchanges on ministerial levels to make it fully productive. Mr. Ramos said that his visit was a turning point in Philippine- Indonesian relations as it opens new links in areas which would be of mutual benefit to the two countries.

In a related development, President Ramos yesterday proposed networking and industrial complimentation [as heard] as basis for Philippine-Indonesian bilateral economic cooperation. The president made this proposal in a speech before the Indonesian Chamber of Commerce and Industry at the Borobudur Hotel.

In a speech, the Philippine chief executive disclosed that he and President Suharto have agreed on the establishment of the East Asian growth triangle. He said the two of them also promised to rectify the present trade imbalance which is unfavorable to the Philippines.

Philippine imports from Indonesia in 1992 for instance amounted to $181 million, while Philippine exports was only $40 million. Whichever way we look at these figures, we must acknowledge our economic relationship does not reflect much the feelings of kinship and geographical affinity between our two people, Ramos said.

Ramos Holds News Conference

BK2209132593 Jakarta Radio Republik Indonesia Network in Indonesian 1200 GMT 22 Sep 93

[Text] Philippine President Fidel Ramos says his talks with President Suharto did not touch on Indonesia's mediation efforts in talks between the Philippine Government and the Muslim Moro National Liberation Front [MNLF] to be held somewhere in Indonesia. This was one of the topics of a news conference held by President Fidel Ramos before dozens of domestic and foreign journalists at the State Guest House in Jakarta this afternoon. Here is a report by RRI correspondent Ahmad Muslih on the news conference.

[Begin Muslih recording] During the news conference moderated by Subrata, director general for press and graphics, the journalists asked the Philippine president questions on subjects ranging from the planned talks between the Philippine Government and the MNLF to President Ramos' impression about a wedding reception for the daughter of the former defense and security minister, Benny Murdani.

[Ramos recording in English fading into Indonesian translation] On the planned talks with the MNLF, President Ramos who was accompanied by his entire delegation said no third party is needed at present to participate in the talks. While saying that the talks are likely to be held somewhere in Indonesia next month, President Ramos said a fixed date for the talks is still under study and the Indonesian Government will provide facilities to help make the talks successful. Regarding bilateral trade, the volume of which is small and which is still favoring Indonesia, President Ramos said the two countries have agreed to take concrete measures to increase bilateral trade, investment, tourism, and technology transfer. [end recording]

According to President Ramos, the two countries have agreed to institutionalize an exchange of information on economic development and intensify technical cooperation.

Joint Communique Signed

BK2209160493 Jakarta Radio Republik Indonesia Network in Indonesian 1500 GMT 22 Sep 93

[Text] Philippine President Fidel Ramos has expressed his appreciation to President Suharto for having raised the issue of developing countries' debts at the meeting between the Indonesian president, in his capacity as chairman of the Nonaligned Movement, and leaders of the G-7 countries in Tokyo last July. President Ramos' appreciation has been mentioned in a joint communique issued today by the governments of the two countries on the occasion of the Philippine president's state visit to Indonesia. The communique said the two leaders have welcomed the G-7 countries' positive response to the developing countries' invitation to hold dialogues and discuss matters of common interests.

So as to strengthen bilateral economic relations, the two sides today signed an agreement on the establishment of a joint commission, on the avoidance of double taxation, and direct postal service between Manado and Davao.

Ramos Speaks to Businessmen

BK2309043193 Jakarta Radio Republik Indonesia Network in Indonesian 0000 GMT 23 Sep 93

[Text] Philippine President Fidel Ramos says his government is striving to create an investment climate conducive to attracting more private investors to invest in the Philippines, particularly in trade and manufacturing. Speaking before Indonesian businessmen and bankers in Jakarta last night, the Philippine president said the active role of the private sector in Philippines' development is expected mainly to overcome public fund constraints. According to Fidel Ramos, the current sociopolitical situation in the Philippines is relatively more stable compared to that of preceding years. He said just as Indonesia has succeeded in spurring its economic growth, the Philippines is equally striving to become a newly industrialized country in 2000.

The Philippine president urged Indonesian businessmen to more actively invest in the Philippines, particularly in banking, transportation, agro-industry, telecommunications, and manufacturing. There was no investment by Indonesian businessmen in the Philippine in 1992. In the preceding year, Indonesian investment reached 30.4 million pesos or about 2.3 billion rupiah.

Suharto Bids Ramos Farewell

BK2309135293 Jakarta Radio Republik Indonesia Network in Indonesian 1200 GMT 23 Sep 93

[Text] President Suharto says the Moro problem is an internal affair between the Philippine Government and the

Moro Muslim group. However, Indonesia is willing to help solve the problem. The head of state's remarks were disclosed to reporters by Minister-State Secretary Murdiono after President Suharto bade farewell to Philippine President Fidel Ramos at Jakarta's Merdeka Palace this morning. The Philippine president also expressed his desire to repay with corn that country's loan of Indonesian rice. In this connection, President Suharto agreed to President Ramos' proposal. The Philippine Government is due to return the rice loan soon.

Dailies Welcome Philippine President's Visit

BK2309075593 Jakarta Radio Republik Indonesia Network in Indonesian 0600 GMT 23 Sep 93

[From the press review]

[Text] BERITA YUDHA expresses its confidence that the visit to Indonesia by Philippine President Fidel Ramos and his delegation will signficantly contribute to the enhancement of relations and cooperation between the two nations. The daily describes Ramos' visit which began last Monday as part of continued good relations between the two nations, both ASEAN members, particularly after the Philippines formally became a member of the Nonaligned Movement. The daily agrees with President Ramos that Indonesia and the Philippines share similar views, ideas, and aspirations. According to BERITA YUDHA, it is, however, important to note that the two countries should understand their respective economic conditions to enable each country to identify areas of cooperation.

Interested in the same event, SUARA KARYA underlines the fact that Indonesia and the Philippines, which have various similar agricultural products and natural resources, will be able to develop their respective economies in a complementary manner, including facing uncertain world economic developments. However, the daily says the visit of President Fidel Ramos and his delegation will certainly further enhance friendship and cooperation between the two nations.

Correspondent on Ramos Farewell, 'Arafat Visit

BK2309145693 Jakarta Radio Republik Indonesia Network in Indonesian 0700 GMT 23 Sep 93

[Text] The president and Mrs. Suharto this morning sent off Philippine President Fidel Ramos and his entourage at Jakarta's Merdeka Palace. After that, the president met with Ahmad Tahir, the Nonaligned Movement's roving ambassador for Europe, and the Libyan president's special envoy. Radio Republik Indonesia correspondent Sukarno Marno reports the president's activities as follows:

[Begin recording] [Marno] Philippine President Fidel Ramos and his entourage were in Surabaya a short while ago to visit the Navy shipbuilding company. Earlier in the morning, the president and Mrs. Tien Suharto sent off the Filipino guests at Jakarta's Merdeka Palace grounds, thus ending their official visit to Indonesia. Speaking to reporters, Minister-State Secretary Murdiono disclosed President Ramos' impressions of his visit to Indonesia.

[Murdiono] The Philippine president has expressed his profound gratitude to us for the warm welcome and hospitality during his visit. He wants to stress once again that bilateral relations are very cordial and hopes they will remain that way in the future.

[Marno] After his numerous visits to Indonesia, the latest one being his visit to attend the Nonaligned Movement summit in Jakarta in September 1992, Palestine President Yasir 'Arafat will for the first time receive a full military honor guard on arrival here tomorrow on a two-day visit. Being an official guest, the Palestine president will hold talks with President Suharto. Minister-State Secretary Murdiono disclosed this to reporters in Jakarta this morning.

[Murdiono] We will have another state guest tomorrow, 24 September, namely Palestine President Yasir 'Arafat, who will make a two-day visit and leave Jakarta on 25 September. The main objective of his visit is to thank President Suharto for Indonesia's consistent support for the Palestinian people's struggle to establish their own country and government. In addition, President 'Arafat will also brief President Suharto on his program for the implementation of the PLO-Israel peace accord.

[Marno] The Nonaligned Movement is expected to play its role in seeking a solution to Bosnia-Herzegovina. In this connection, Ahmad Tahir, the Nonaligned Movement's roving ambassador for Europe, recently visited Moscow, Bonn, and Geneva to obtain the views of the three countries' leaders.

[Tahir] We have held talks with the Russian Government leaders, whom we believe to have great influence in shaping the Serbian Government's stand. We have asked the Russian Government to use its influence on Serbia so the Serbians will exercise self-restraint and find a political solution to the conflict.

[Marno] Libya is also one country under the responsibility of the Nonaligned Movement because that country is a member of the movement. (Mohamed Ahmad al-Sharif), a special envoy of the Libyan president, paid a courtesy call on President Suharto at Merdeka Palace today. The special envoy was accompanied by Nana Sutresna, chairman of the Nonaligned Movement's executive board.

[Sutresna] Dr. (Mohamed Ahmad al-Sharif) is a former Libyan minister who is now under special assignment by the Libyan president, Colonel al-Qadhdhafi, to convey his message to several heads of state, including the Indonesian president, on the Lockerbie incident. We all know that the incident has reached a stage in its investigation to the point that three countries, namely the United States, Britain, and France, believe they have adequate evidence to put on trial two Libyan nationals for the bombing. We also know that the UN Security Council has imposed several sanctions against Libya. The latest development, as the Libyan special envoy described it in his meeting with President Suharto, is that the three countries are getting more adamant to the extent that they may impose heavier

sanctions against Libya. According to Col. al-Qadhdhafi, the Libyan people have had enough hardships from the sanctions. [end recording]

Military Chief Doubts Intentions of U.S. Team

BK2309064893 Hong Kong AFP in English 0357 GMT 23 Sep 93

[Text] Jakarta, Sept 23 (AFP)—The chief of the Surabaya military area in east Java has aired suspicions that members of a visiting U.S. trade team belonged to the U.S. intelligence service and expressed doubts on their intentions, a press report said Thursday.

The REPUBLIKA daily quoted Colonel Sutarto who heads the military command in Surabaya as having told 150 local businessmen in the east Java city on Wednesday that several members of the U.S. intelligence service had come to Surabaya to observe labour strikes there.

"Will their presence help solve manpower problems in East Java or will it be the opposite, to worsen the existing situation and condition," Sutarto said,.

"This country should not prostitute itself. Meaning we should not be too influenced by outside parties which could muddy existing conditions," he added.

A four-member team of the U.S. Trade Representative Office is currently in Surabaya as part of a visit to Indonesia at the invitiation of the government to give an explanation on U.S. trade privileges and observes labour conditions here.

Washington has threatened to withdraw trade privileges accorded to Indonesia worth about one billion dollars should Indonesia fail to improve labour protection here by February.

Alleged Infiltration Probed

BK2409042493 Hong Kong AFP in English 0312 GMT 24 Sep 93

[Text] Jakarta, Sept 24 (AFP)—The government would investigate the alleged infiltration by the U.S. intelligence service, a city military chief aired his suspicions on that, a news report said Friday.

"We will investigate the report on the U.S. intelligence service in Surabaya," Coordinating Minister for Political and Security Affairs Susilo Sudarman was quoted by the REPUBLIKA daily as saying. The chief of the Surabaya military area in east Java, Colonel Sutarto, has aired suspicions that members of a visiting U.S. trade team belonged to the U.S. intelligence service and expressed doubts on their intentions.

Sudarman said guests should obey the rules of a country they visit. He did not elaborate.

A four-member team of the U.S. trade representative office visited Surabaya on Thursday as part a visit to Indonesia at the invitation of the government to observe labour conditions in the country.

Washington has threatened to lift trade priviledges accorded to Indonesia under the Generalized System of Preferences (GSP) should the country fail to improve its labour conditions by February.

Industry Minister Meets Australian Businessmen

BK2309031093 Jakarta THE INDONESIA TIMES English 16 Sep 93 p 3

[Text] Jakarta—Indonesia has been suffering deficits in its trade with Australia since 1983 reaching 1.5 trillion rupiahs (about 750 million U.S. dollars) in 1991 and 1.3 trillion rupiahs (650 million U.S. dollars) in 1992.

"This was due to limited trade relations between the two countries," Minister of Industry Tungky Ariwibowo told the press after a meeting with an Australian business mission led by Australian Minister of Industry Alan Griffiths here on Tuesday.

In the last 12 years, only in 1981 and 1982, the trade balance between the countries showed a surplus for Indonesia, namely 170 billion and 618 billion rupiahs respectively.

Indonesian exports to Australian are dominated by oil products, plywood, natural rubber, and shoes; imports from Australia on the other hand are dominated by aluminium, wheat, grains, and cotton.

The meeting between Indonesian and Australian entrepreneurs will create an opportunity for Indonesia to increase the volume of its exports, Alan Griffiths said.

"The meeting will enable businessmen from both sides to conduct direct trade dialogue which is expected to creat business opportunties for mutual benefit," he added.

Griffiths went on to say that the Australian businessmen's interest to invest in Indonesia is great, the more so after obtaining information from the Indonesian minister of industry that the Indonesian Government would issue an investment deregulation to import [word as published] the business approval procedure.

The great interest of Australian businessmen will have a positive impact on Australian investment in Indonesia which, according to data from the Capital Investment Coordinating Agency (BKPM), shows that Australian investment stood at 543.2 million Australian dollars in July 1993, thus placing Australia as the tenth largest among the 34 investor countries in Indonesia.

The Australian trade mission included 44 senior executives and other prominent business figures who are expected to widen higher level contacts in Indonesia.

"The visit is also aimed at increasing Australian chances to obtain development projects in Indonesia," Griffiths said.

These projects consist, among other things, of the construction of electric power plants in Indonesia valued at 384 million Australian dollars.

The meeting between the Australian and Indonesian businessmeen is scheduled to last for three days, from September 14 to 17.

Japanese Envoy Assures More Technology Transfer

BK2309121493 Jakarta Radio Republik Indonesia Network in Indonesian 0700 GMT 23 Sep 93

[Text] The process of technology transfer from Japan to Indonesia is proceeding faster than was earlier thought even though the cost of bringing in experts from that country is getting more expensive. Speaking in Semarang, (Tatsuo Yamashita), first secretary of the Japanese Embassy in Jakarta, said despite the high cost of bringing in experts, Japanese managers want to see technical and managerial skill transfered to Indonesian workers.

The Japanese Embassy official added that Japanese companies in Indonesia now must face fierce competition from other companies affiliated with other countries in securing domestic and overseas markets. Therefore, he stressed that without high-technology, Japanese companies in Indonesia will certainly lose in this fierce competition. This situation ensures the continued process of technology transfer from Japan to Indonesia.

Laos

Cooperation Committee Meeting Held With Thailand

Meeting Concludes

BK2309015693 Vientiane Vitthayou Hengsat Radio Network in Lao 0000 GMT 23 Sep 93

[Text] The third meeting of the Lao-Thai and Thai-Lao Cooperation Committees, which was held from 21 to 22 September, concluded successfully at the conference room of the Lanxang Hotel in Vientiane yesterday afternoon.

His Excellency [H.E.] Somsavat Lengsavat, Lao minister of foreign affairs and chairman of the Lao-Thai Cooperation Committee, and H.E. Squardron Leader Prasong Sunsiri, Thai minister of foreign affairs and chairman of the Thai-Lao Cooperation Committee, jointly presided over the meeting. Members of the two cooperation committees and technicians from both sides also participated in the meeting.

During the two days of meeting, both sides discussed and exchanged views extensively and honestly on various issues of mutual interest amid an atmosphere of close and neighborly bilateral relations, especially issues concerning bilateral relations, such as the political, economic, social, cultural, and tourism cooperation.

The meeting of the cooperation committees of both countries also issued a joint statement on the Lao-Thai cooperation, which was signed by chairmen of the cooperation committees of both sides.

Text of Joint Statement

BK2309141793 Vientiane Vitthayou Hengsat Radio Network in Lao 0000 GMT 23 Sep 93

["Joint Statement" of the third meeting of the joint Lao-Thai Cooperation Committee held in Vientiane from 21-22 September—dated 22 September]

[Text] The third meeting of the joint Lao-Thai Cooperation Committee, which was held from 21 to 22 September in Vientiane, concluded successfully yesterday. Both sides issued and signed a joint statement, the full text of which is as follows:

I. In the period from 21 to 22 September 1993, the Government of the Lao People's Democratic Republic [LPDR] hosted the third meeting of the joint Lao-Thai Cooperation Committee at the Lanxang Hotel, Vientiane. The meeting was jointly presided over by His Excellency [H.E.] Somsavat Lengsavat, Lao minister of foreign affairs, as co-chairman for the Lao side; and H.E. Squadron Leader Prasong Sunsiri, Thai minister of foreign affairs, as co-chairman for the Thai side.

II. The meeting discussed and exchanged views extensively on various issues of mutual interest, specifically bilateral issues and regional cooperation. Both sides expressed their great satisfaction with the development of bilateral relations, through both the government and private sectors, and concurred on promoting a further expansion of cooperation between the two countries and peoples in various aspects both at the national and local levels.

III. The Thai cochairman thanked the Lao Government for giving honorable welcomes to His Royal Highness Crown Prince Maha Wachiralongkon and Her Royal Highness Princess Maha Chakkri Sirinthon. Further, he stressed that the projects initiated in Laos by His Majesty the King and Her Royal Highness Princess Maha Chakkri Sirinthon are regarded by the Thai Government and the Thai people as the highest symbol of Lao-Thai cooperation.

IV. Participants in the meeting exchanged views honestly and sincerely in an atmosphere of friendly relations. Consultations were held on the issues of bilateral relations, specifically on political, economic, social, cultural, and tourism cooperation. The main content of the discussion is as follows:

Political Cooperation

On cooperation in safeguarding peace and order along the Lao-Thai general border, the meeting is satisfied with the outcome of the past year's operations by the committees in charge of the said matter. In the process, general border peacekeeping subcommittees were set up and exchanges of visits of high-ranking officials of both sides have regularly been made. Both sides also agreed to further expand cooperation at every level, especially at the provincial level. On this, the Thai side will soon organize a meeting of provincial governors of all the Lao and Thai border provinces.

On the issue of the Lao-Thai borderline, the meeting acknowledged the results of the third meeting of the joint Lao-Thai border committee held from 16 to 18 March 1993 in Phukhet Province and the progress of the fifth round talks in Phitsanulok Province from 28 to 30 July 1993 and the joint survey of the borderline between Laos' Boten District and Thailand's Chattrakan District on 19 July 1993 by the technical subcommittees. The results of

the survey will be reported to the joint Lao-Thai border committee for consideration in its special meeting scheduled to be held in Vientiane in late 1993.

On the issue concerning Lao refugees in Thailand, the meeting acknowledged the result of the sixth tripartite meeting between Laos, Thailand, and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees [UNHCR] in Savannakhet Province from 15 to 16 July 1993 and the additional memorandum of the Lao-Thai talks in Savannakhet Province on 15 July 1993. The meeting pledged to quickly try to request the UNHCR and the international community to render assistance to the project for the successful repatriation of Lao refugees.

On the prevention and suppression of narcotics, the meeting is satisfied with the progress and continuity of cooperation between Laos and Thailand in narcotics prevention and suppression. For the period 1994-1995, the Thai side has offered to assist Laos in the form of training courses and observation visits on request by the the Lao side within the framework of narcotics prevention and suppression cooperation between Laos, Thailand, and Myanmar [Burma]. Apart from this, the meeting was also informed of the move for the signing of a memorandum of understanding between Laos, Thailand, Myanmar, and China, and the United Nations' narcotics control project, which is designed to set the scope for cooperation with each other in solving the problems concerning the production, distribution, and consumption of narcotics in this region. The memorandum is scheduled to be signed on 26 October 1993 at the United Nations headquarters in New York.

On cooperation on the issuance of visas, the meeting concurred with the principles agreed in the second meeting of the cooperation committee that diplomatic travels are exempted visas for one month. Other travel documents will be later considered.

On the matter of the issuance of visas for Lao students who are obtaining scholarship from the Thai Government or other places, the Thai side will later consider measures for making the process easier.

On the construction of a bridge across Nam Heuang, the meeting agreed in principle to construct a bridge across Nam Heuang, which will be most useful in promoting visits to each other at local level. Meetings between technical officials will be held to discuss details of rules and regulations for the usage of the bridge and international laws will be carefully worked out.

On repatriating prisoners who have fled to another country, the meeting was unanimous that the cooperation would be beneficial for each country.

Economic Cooperation

On the issue of energy, the meeting acknowledged the memorandum of understanding on cooperation in developing electricity in Laos, which was signed on 4 June 1993 during the visit to Laos by the Thai prime minister. To this effect, both countries have set up committees to coordinate with each other on the matter and are scheduled to hold a meeting soon. The Lao side informed the meeting that the cooperation project to increase electricity distribution points from Bung Kan to Paksan and to change from underwater electric lines to aerial lines from Mukdahan to Savannakhet and from Nakhon Phanom to Thakhek, in accordance with the electricity generation authority, has been properly carried out step by step.

Moreover, the Lao side proposed that a feasibility study be conducted on increasing electricity distribution points at Tha Li and Kenthao. They requested Thailand's provincial electricity authority to do the work and the Thai side accepted the proposal for consideration.

On the opening of border checkpoints, the meeting was informed that at present all the border checkpoints that the Lao side proposed in the second meeting have already been opened. They are the border points between Kenthao District, Sayaboury Province, and Tha Li District, Loei Province; Paksan District, Bolikhamsai Province, and Bung Kan District, Nong Khai Province; and Sanakham District, Vientiane Province, and Chiang Khan District, Loei Province. Another border checkpoint linking Ban Vang Mai, Sanakham District, Vientiane Province, and Pak Chom District, Loei Province, will be opened on 23 September.

The Lao side told the meeting that Laos has also opened three more international border checkpoints. They are at Houai Sai District, Bokeo Province; Savannakhet Province; and Song Ngek, Champassak Province.

For the border point in Mou Lao, Ngon District, Sianghon-Hongsa Special Zone and Ban Huai Kon, Thung Chang District, Nan Province, which the Lao foreign affairs minister proposed in May 1993 to be opened, the meeting agreed in principle and will assign agencies in charge from both sides to coordinate with each other to set the date for the opening.

The meeting agreed that in order to coordinate implementation and inform each other of the rules and regulations of each side for the purpose of making things clear, at a meeting of the governors of all the Lao and Thai border provinces—which will be hosted by the Thai side in the near future—differrnces in the pronunciation of names and the meanings of various existing border points between Laos and Thailand should be pointed out.

On economic and technical cooperation, the meeting deemed it appropiate to have closer coordination so that the carrying out of work in the future can proceed more conveniently and quickly. For 1994, the meeting agreed on the Lao request for Thailand to grant longterm scholarships—60 for Bachelor's Degrees, and 20 for Master's Degrees; 100 scholarships for short-term training, and 50 scholarships for observational visits—the supply of educational and public health equipment, an exchange of technicians in various fields, and an increase in forms of cooperation on long-term projects.

On the renovation of Luang Prabang Airport, the meeting reaffirmed the intention for cooperation in renovation of the Luang Prabang Airport and the desire to make it

operational quickly. The delay in the project is because of the revised construction plan, which has resulted in an increase of the original budget, for which Thailand earlier prepared a subsidy. The meeting decided that priority work should begin with the budget available. Agencies concerned of both sides are to quickly consult with each other and try to make it possible to start the project in 1994.

On trade, investment, and finance, the meeting concurred on promote border trade cooperation and finding ways to solve obstacles between them. On investment, the meeting is pleased with the signing of the agreement on cooperation between Lao and Thai investment promotion agencies during the visit to Laos by the Thai prime minister from 4 to 6 June 1993, which would be beneficial for investment in Laos by Thai investors. At the same time, Laos is willing to welcome Thai businessmen who are interested in investing in Laos and is ready to provide all facilities in various fields of industry, particularly all the processing industries, including the food industry. Both sides will render cooperation in solving problems relating to investment in order to enable both sides to gain proper benefits from investment.

In the financial field, the meeting took note of the cooperation in various fields rendered by the Bank of Thailand to the Bank of the Lao People's Democratic Republic, whose governors will hold a consultative meeting in Savannakhet Province in late 1993 to discuss the expansion of mutual cooperation. The two sides unanimously agreed to increasingly promote border trading activities through the banking system.

With regard to the reduction of taxes on Laos' agricultural goods and finished wood products, the meeting took note of a decision made by the Thai cabinet to approve import quotas for three categories of restricted goods from Laos for 1993 as proposed by the Lao side as follows:

1. to allow import of 5,000 metric tons of soy beans in November and December;

2. to allow import of 4,000 metric tons of jute with no time limit.

As for coffee, no import permission has yet been granted because Thailand still has a surplus of this commodity. However, efforts will be made to encourage Thai exporters to buy it from Laos for reexporting to third countries as transit goods.

As for the reduction of import duties on finished wood products from Laos as proposed by the Lao side at the second meeting of the joint cooperation committees, the Thai side informed the Lao side that it has announced the reduction of import duties on parquet flooring tiles, window and door frames, and furniture down to 20 percent. The import duties of all kinds of plywood products have been reduced to 30 percent effective 2 June 1993.

The meeting also took note of the results of the consultative meeting between the Lao minister of trade and the Thai minister of commerce held in Bangkok on 22 July 1993, in which the Lao side requested that import duties on agricultural products and finished wood products be further reduced.

As for the transport of transit goods across the border, the meeting reaffirmed the principle earlier agreed upon in which free competition would be permitted and fair treatment be given to all goods transport enterprises. The meeting noted the increase in the number of Thai operators providing border transit goods transport services from a single enterprise to four enterprises. The Lao side also proposed an increase in the number of Lao operators in this business. The two sides will forward these proposals to their respective governments for approval.

In connection with the bridge across the Mekong River, the meeting took note with pleasure that the construction of the bridge would be finished on schedule for an official opening in April 1994. As for the questions of the legal jurisdiction of the bridge, and its ownership and management, the meeting requested that a consultative meeting be urgently held so as to arrive at a conclusion on these issues before the opening ceremony of the bridge is to take place.

With regard to cooperation in the aviation field, the meeting noted the outcome of the Thai side's action in coordinating with the International Aviation Organization regarding the opening of the A-2 air route from Laos, Bangkok, Nakhon Ratchasima, Savannakhet, Dong Hoi to Hong Kong as earlier proposed by the Lao side.

As for the improvement of communications routes, the Lao side expressed interest in developing transport routes linking Laos and Thailand to third countries in accordance with the following degrees of priority:

1. the route linking Laos, Thailand, and China along the route from Chiang Khong, Houai Sai, Luang Namtha, Boteng to China;

2. the route linking Laos, Thailand, and Vietnam along the route from Nakhon Phanom, Thakhek, Highway No. 12 to Son La;

3. the route linking Laos, Thailand, and Vietnam along the route from Mukdahan, Savannakhet, Highway No. 9, to Da Nang;

4. the route linking Laos, Thailand, and China along the route from Nan, Sianghon-Hongsa, Luang Prabang, Highway No. 13, to China;

5. the route linking Laos, Thailand, and Vietnam along the route from Nakhon Phanom, Khammouane, Kham Keut, Highway No. 8 to Vinh.

In addition, the meeting also agreed in principle to hold consultations on the possibilities of building a railway line from Nong Khai to Vientiane and of operating passenger bus services from Bangkok to Vientiane. Consultation will also be held to discuss regulations on cross-border motorways operations.

With regard to Lao-Thai cooperation in the telecommunications field, the meeting unanimously agreed to instruct the services concerned on both sides to further discuss this issue.

As for the prevention of the erosion of the banks of the Mekong River, the meeting agreed in principle to instruct the technical authorities of the two sides to conduct a study to resolve this problem.

In connection with Laos' transit goods currently stranded at the Bangkok port, the Lao side requested that the Thai side waive its warehouse fees and customs duties. In case part of the goods has to be sold into the markets, the Thai side pledged to help the Lao side find ways to solve this problem. With regard to the Thai side's proposal for Laos to make use of Thailand's Laem Chabang deep-sea port, the Lao side expressed interest in complying with the Thai side's proposal. Further details will be forwarded to the Lao side for consideration.

Regarding cooperation in carrying out joint livestock raising, the two sides agreeed in principle to sign an agreement on Lao-Thai livestock raising cooperation by appointing concerned technical teams from the two sides to hold further consultations.

Cooperation in the social, cultural, and tourism fields

With regard to cooperation in the arts and cultural fields, the meeting agreed to promote social and cultural cooperation with a view to further enhancing the relations between the peoples in the two countries, including promoting cultural and sports activities between the various provinces in Laos with those in Thailand.

In connection with tourism, the meeting agreed to continue developing annual plans to promote mutual tourism cooperation along the Mekong River, which also involves many countries. The meeting agreed that the countries concerned consult with one another to establish regulations and cooperation plans in the future.

With regarding to the Laos-Thailand and Thailand-Laos Friendship Associations, the meeting endorsed the lists of names of the committee members of the Laos-Thailand Friendship Association, with Khamphai Boupha, former deputy foreign affairs minister, as chairman of the Lao side and with Asa Sarasin and Wiraphong Ramangkhun as respectively chairman and secretary for the Thai side. The Laos-Thailand and Thailand-Laos Friendship Associations will help carry out the duties of promoting activities in the social, cultural, and tradition areas of cooperation between the two countries.

V. The meeting agreed to hold the next meeting of the joint cooperation committees in Thailand between August and September 1994.

VI. The Thai delegation thanked the Lao Government and people for having accorded it a warm welcome in the spirit of hospitality, which is an indication of the lasting relations of friendship between the two countries.

Conflict Over Bridge Defused

BK2309033193 Bangkok THE NATION in English 23 Sep 93 p A7

[Text] THE Thai and Lao foreign ministers yesterday vowed to resolve the problems of jurisdiction and sovereignty over the Friendship Bridge spanning the Mekong River before it is inaugurated next April. Officials from both countries will work through legal channels over the next six months to settle the questions before the bridge is officially opened by His Majesty the King and Laotian President Nouhak Phomsavan.

"(The questions) must be settled before the opening, otherwise the bridge can't be opened," Lao Foreign Minister Somsavat Lengsavat said yesterday after the closing session of the two-day third ministerial meeting of the Thai-Lao Joint Commission. Somsavat and Thai Foreign Minister Prasong Sunsiri stepped in to defuse a row between senior officials over the demarcation of the border on the Thai-Lao Friendship bridge.

They agreed that the dividing line would be drawn at midpoint on the bridge, although it would not necessarly be regarded as the official boundary. The line will effectively divide responsibility for traffic regulation and bridge maintenance. The agreement was seen as a political compromise to avert further upsets in on-going cooperation following a failure in technical-level talks on Sunday and Monday.

Despite some residual problems Somsavat hailed Thai-Lao relations as maturing, and said cooperation under the Thai-Lao committee had been cordial and constructive. He said Thai-Lao ties had improved dramatically since the 1988 Baan Romklao war.

In a joint statement, the two sides hailed His Majesty the King's agricultural service projects as symbolic of a zenith in Thai-Lao relations.

"The more both sides meet to solve emerging problems, the more mature the relationship becomes," Somsavat said.

The Foreign Ministry's Treaty and Legal Affairs Department director general Krit Kanchanakunchon, who handled the legal debate on the demarcation question, said both sides were very cautious not only to protect their national interests but also to nurture good relations.

Krit, however, said further legal debate must be pursued, especially with regard to jurisdiction over the bridge and border markings. According to international law, the parameters of a state's jurisdiction reach to its boundary line, he said. He said changing the boundary was against Thailand's Constitution, and that some Thai officials regard the division line at the midpoint of the bridge as an artificial relocation of the boundary.

Laos earlier proposed the bridge's midpoint as the practical dividing line as well as the official border, citing international practice. But Thailand citing the principle of sovereignty, wanted the line drawn directly above the deepest part of the river.

Laos' director general of Treaty Affairs Department Bounthong Wongsari told THE NATION that by international practice, the dividing line for ownership and legal jurisdiction of border bridges across rivers were almost always at the midpoint of the bridges, regardless of where the maritime boundary was drawn. He cited cases in France, Belgium and Sweden. Bounthong added that the divison line of the bridge across the Kholok river between Thailand and Malaysia and a bridge betweeen Thailand and Burma followed the international standard.

Laos also agreed to study a Thai proposal for an extraditon pact as a joint effort to suppress cnminal activities along the common border. The pact would be similar to the one Thailand signed recently with China and would not include extradition of anti-Laos insurgents whom Vientiane believes still reside near the Thai border.

Party Central Committee's Seventh Plenum Ends

BK2109094793 Vientiane Vitthayou Hengsat Radio Network in Lao 0000 GMT 21 Sep 93

[Text] The seventh plenary session of the Fifth Lao People's Revolutionary Party Central Committee, which has proceeded since 8 September, concluded successfully yesterday in an atmosphere of responsibility and activity.

The meeting participants discussed and made decisions on a number of issues. They reviewed the implementation of party and state policies. They not only noted the outstanding achievements attained with new factors, but also directly criticized problems remaining to be solved and noted discouraging incidents that occured in the process of implementing the party and state policies.

At the same time, the meeting participants also insightfully exchanged views on the direction and methods for solving problems. The participants unanimously agreed that to create greater efficiency in implementing the party and state direction and policies, apart from funds and other necessities, special attention must also be paid to the human factor, especially the cadres. This is because the final decisive factor is human—the cadres. The meeting, therefore, urged that remaining problems and discouraging conditions among cadres be quickly rectified with the emphasis on increased awareness in discipline and responsibility to duties, adapting and improving working methods and coordinating systems among various organizations and services, as well as between the vertical and horizontal lines of administration. All this is aimed at creating collaboration and uniformity to ensure gradual improvement of efficiency in carrying out collective work, as well as organizing various activities.

The meeting evaluated the progress of socioeconomic development in the first six months of this year. It noted that after the approval of the national socioeconomic development plan for the period 1993-2000, there has been a new atmosphere in economy and investment in the country. This is because the said development plan has drawn attention and support from people of all strata and businessmen and investors from inside and ouside the country. This can be clearly seen during the implementation of the development plan in the past five or six months.

On the direction for development, the meeting pointed out that there are needs to continuously and actively encourage the spirit of patriotism, independence, and self-mastery among the people; and to make use of all domestic potentials together with favorable new factors in the sphere of foreign cooperation and investment to approach the targets set in various aspects for the year 2000.

After that, the meeting discussed the national socioeconomic development plan and the budget plan for the fiscal year 1993-1994. Attendants exchanged views on the improvement of the said socioeconomic development plan and the national budget plan.

Furthermore, the meeting of the Central Committee also touched upon and approved a resolution on the development of human resources in the Lao People's Democratic Republic. The meeting concurred that the resolution suits the demand of the current situation in the new stage, because it serves as the base for mapping out detailed principles and methods for correcting weak points and defects in training personnel.

In addition, the meeting also set objectives, targets, and directions of work in training personnel in each field, especially to make them knowledgable, capable, virtuous, honest, and healthy, so that they will be ready to further pass on and enhance the glorious and courageous traditions and the cultural value and identity of the nation and multiethnic groups.

The meeting participants expressed confidence that the entire party, the army, and the people, which have continuously been united through the party Political Bureau Central Committee, will consistently hold aloft self-vigilance and enhance the spirit of patriotism, independence, and self-mastery in implementing the resolutions of the seventh plenary session, as well as the two strategic duties and the renovation tasks in a more efficient manner.

Message of Thanks Received From SRV Leaders

BK2309135893 Vientiane Vitthayou Hengsat Radio Network in Lao 1200 GMT 23 Sep 93

[Text] On 9 September, Comrade Do Muoi, general secretary of the Communist Party of Vietnam [CPV] Central Committee; Comrade Le Duc Anh, president of the SRV; Comrade Vo Van Kiet, prime minister of the SRV; and Comrade Nong Duc Manh, chairman of the SRV National Assembly, jointly sent a thank-you message to Comrade Khamtai Siphandon, chairman of the Lao People's Revolutionary Party [LPRP] Central Committee and prime minister of the Lao People's Democratic Republic [LPDR]; Comrade Nouhak Phoumsavan, president of the LPDR; and Comrade Saman Vi-gnaket, chairman of the LPDR National Assembly, in Vientiane.

The message reads: On behalf of the CPV Central Committee, the government, the National Assembly, and the entire people of Vietnam, we would like to express our

sincere thanks to you, comrades, and, through you, to the LPRP Central Committee, the government, the National Assembly, and the entire people of Laos for having sent a congratulatory message to us on the occasion of the celebration of the 48th anniversary of SRV National Day.

We are firmly confident that the relations of friendship, special solidarity, and comprehensive cooperation between the two parties, states, and peoples of Vietnam and Laos will be incessantly consolidated and developed.

We wish you, comrades, good health and glorious successes in fulfilling your esteemed duties.

On the same occasion, Comrade Nguyen Manh Cam, SRV foreign affairs minister, also sent a thank-you message to Comrade Somsavat Lengsavat, foreign affairs minister of Laos.

Thailand

Royal Announcement Appoints Cabinet Ministers

BK2309140693 Bangkok Radio Thailand Network in Thai 1330 GMT 23 Sep 93

[Text] Announcement on the dismissal and appointment of cabinet ministers.

Royal signature: Phumiphon Adunyadet

His Majesty King Phumiphon Adunyadet has graciously commanded that it be announced that per his appointment of Chuan Likphai as prime minister in accordance with the announcement dated 23 September 1992 and appointment of cabinet ministers to administer the country in accordance with the announcement dated 29 September 1992, and the dimissal of cabinet ministers in accordance with the announcement dated 15 September 1993, the prime minister has informed him that since the Labor and Social Welfare Ministry has been established, it is appropriate to reshuffle the cabinet for the sake of suitability and bureaucratic benefit. Empowered by Article 159 of the Constitution of the Kingdom of Thailand, fourth amendment in 1992, and Article 171 of the Constitution of the Kingdom of Thailand, he commands that:

1. Sawai Phatthano be relieved from his post as deputy communications minister and be appointed as justice minister;

2. Anek Thapsuwan be relieved from his post as deputy public health minister and be appointed as deputy communications minister;

3. Phinit Charusombat be appointed as deputy communications minister;

4. Chaloemphon Sanitwongchai be appointed as deputy commerce minister;

5. General Chawalit Yongchaiyut be appointed to concurrently serve as minister of labor and social welfare;

6. Phaithun Kaeothong be relieved from his ministerial post and appointed as deputy minister of labor and social welfare;

7. Soemsak Karun be appointed as deputy minister of labor and social welfare;

8. Athit Urairat be appointed as public health minister;

9. Mrs. Tuanchai Nu-upala be appointed as deputy public health minister.

This is effective from 23 September 1993.

Announced on 23 September 1993, being the 48th year under the reign of the present king.

Countersigned by Chuan Likphai, prime minister

Further on Cabinet Appointments

BK2409023593 Bangkok THE NATION in English 24 Sep 93 pp 1, 2

[Text] Interior Minister Chawalit Yongchaiyut has taken the new post of labour minister to avoid a potentially damaging confrontation between factions within his New Aspiration Party [NAP]. NAP deputy leader Wira Musikaphong, whom Chawalit widely touted for the job despite a huge outcry by northeastern members of the party, has refused the post or any other Cabinet position.

Gen [General] Chawalit, speaking to reporters before last night's announcement of the Royal command affecting the appointments and changes in the Cabinet, said he would not remain in the labour portfolio for long and hinted at reassigning NAP Cabinet members to make way for Wira."From now on the New Aspiration Party will evaluate the performance of all its Cabinet members to find out whether they have been serving effectively and devotedly. And there will be changes, if necessary," the NAP leader said.

He praised Wira's "sacrifice" in relinquishing his nomination as the country's first labour minister to avoid an internal conflict within the NAP. "I wanted Wira Musikaphong to work with me in the Cabinet because he is an old colleague who has stood by me throughout the long quest to fulfill our party's ideology," Chawalit said. "In the near future, Wira will make his entry (to the Cabinet) at a more favourable time," he said.

The NAP leader said that in doubling as labour minister, he would be doing the coalition government a great service by upholding its stability. "Whether or not I can handle the extra workload, I am not in a position to say. But I can say that I have been doing (the labour portfolio work) all along," he said, referring to labour affairs coming under the Interior Ministry. Chawalit stressed that serving both as interior minister and labour minister was not a means to solving the NAP's infighting. He did not elaborate.

Thawatwong Na Chiangmai, secretary to Chawalit, said the minister was the best person to handle the problems associated with the initial organization of the Labour Ministry, which would involve the transfer of a large number of officials from the Interior Ministry. The Labour Ministry was previously known as the Labour Department under the Interior Ministry.

Col [Colonel] Somchai Montriwat, Chawalit's personal secretary, said Wira decided not to take any Cabinet post. "We have tried to move Wira up. But there was nothing we could do when Wira refused to take (the labour post)."

Interior Ministry sources said the Labour Ministry, which legally became a functional government body yesterday, would also have an acting permanent secretary because no qualified senior Interior Ministry official would take the job. The sources said Amphon Singhakowin, chief of the Social Security Office would double up as acting permanent secretary for labour after the offer was declined by Deputy Permanent Secretary for Interior Chaiwat Hutacharoen and the Interior Ministry's Local Administration Department chief Chuwong Chayabutr.

Government spokesman Aphisit Wetchachiwa said yesterday the prime minister submitted the list of people to be appointed to the Cabinet to HM [His Majesty] the King at the Chitrlada Palace yesterday morning. The new Cabinet members appointed under the royal command are:

New Aspiration Party: Interior Minister Chawalit Yongchaiyut, doubling as labour minister; Deputy Commerce Minister Phaithun Kaeothong as deputy labour minister; Rayong MP Soemsak Karun as deputy labour minister; and Udon Thani MP Chaloemphon Sanitwongchai as deputy commerce minister.

Democrat Party: Deputy Communications Minister Sawai Phatthano as justice minister; Deputy Public Health Minister Anek Thapsuwan as deputy communications minister; and Udon Thani MP Tuanchai Nu-upala as deputy public health minister.

Seritham Party: Seritham Party leader Athit Urairat as public health minister; and Nong Khai MP Phinit Charusombat as deputy communications minister.

The nine newly-appointed Cabinet members would be sworn in before HM the King on Monday. Prime Minister Chuan Likphai said there would be no change in the government policy as the result of the changes in the Cabinet lineup.

Chuan said he was aware of the criticism that he had been an indecisive leader who was too slow in handling state affairs, but insisted he must make sure that each decision he made was in accordance with the law and was a lasting solution to a problem.

Newly-appointed Public Health Minister Athit Urairat said he had resigned from all private companies and institutions he had been running, including the Phyathai Hospital and Rangsit University, to preclude the problem of conflict of interest. "I will right what is wrong at the Public Health Ministry. I want the ministry to be a functioning organization—not a place to make money controlled by the 'mafia'," Arthit said.

Deputy Prime Minister Banyat Banthatthan said he believed the Chuan II administration would be more stable because there would be greater unity among members of the new Cabinet. "At least, there will be no criticisms made by members of a coalition partner against the coalition government's performance," Banyat said. "The unity in the government will bring about public confidence."

On the squabbling over Cabinet positions, Banyat said he saw nothing unusual. But he believed all problems would be settled as soon as the new Cabinet line-up was announced.

Deputy Communications Minister Sawai Phatthano, who will take up a new position as justice minister, said he was not worried because the factional feud among judges had already been solved by his predecessor, Suwit Khunkitti. "There should be no problem. All judges are respectable and trustworthy people. I believe we will work together smoothly," Sawai said. He said he intended to make the justice system responsive to the people's needs. He wanted to make the judiciary an organization that law-abiding citizens can depend on for justice.

Cabinet Appointments Profiled

BK2409024393 Bangkok THE NATION in English 24 Sep 93 p 2

[Text]

Athit Urairat, Public Health Minister

Athit Urairat, 55, often called "doctor powdered-egg" by the press also gained the appellation of "democratic hero" after the May uprising in 1992. Athit, as House Speaker, proposed to His Majesty the King that Anan Panyarachun be again appointed prime minister of Thailand, instead of Sombun Rahong, the former Chat Thai Party leader.

Athit, the Seritham Party leader, is an MP for Chachoengsao, where his powdered-egg plant is also located. He founded Seritham after the Samakkhitham Party was dissolved before the Sept 13 elections. Athit is the son of former Bangkok governor Prasit Urairat and Khunying Patthana. He has a long list of academic qualifications, including a bachelor's degree in Political Science from Chulalongkorn University and a master's degree in international relations from the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy at Tufts University, Massachusetts. Athit received a masters in public service from California State University and then a PhD in public administration from the University of Colorado.

He served in the Civil Service Commission for some years before taking the plunge into politics and private business. Among the positions he holds are chief administrative director of the Phya Thai Group of hospitals, President of Rangsit University, chairman and president of the Wangtara Hotel and the director and secretary of the John E Peurifoy Foundation. Athit is also a former governor of the Metropolitan Waterworks Authority.

Politically, Athit was formerly a member of the Social Action Party and served as secretary-general of the defunct National Democratic Party led by former prime minister Kriangsak Chamanan. He then joined the Communication Action Party and became its secretary-general. The party merged with other opposition parties to form the Samakkhitham Party, which Athit served as deputy leader.

When Samakkhitham joined the Chatchai cabinet Athit was made foreign minister, but was much criticized for going too far in committing Thailand to the Western point of view in the Gulf War.

Athit had been foreign minister for two months when the Chatchai government was overthrown by the National Peacekeeping Council. After the general elections on March 22, 1992, he received wide support from MPs and was voted House Speaker.

Tuanchai Nu-upala, Deputy [Dep] Public Health Minister

Tuanchai Nu-upala, 49, is the first woman in the Chuan Cabinet—which has been criticized for not paying enough attention to women's affairs. Tuanchai has been elected an Udon Thani MP for the Democrats on three occasions—1983, 1988 and September last year. She was a deputy secretary to a minister from 1984 to 1985, and in 1989 worked as an official in the Prime Minister's Office. The following year she was made a secretary to a minister. Tuanchai is a member of the administration committee of the Democrat Party and prior to her appointment to Cabinet was a deputy secretary-general to Prime Minister Chuan Likphai. She has a diploma in nursing from the Red Cross Council of Thailand.

Chawalit Yonchaiyut, Interior and Labour Minister

Before entering politics, Chawalit, the New Aspiration Party [NAP] leader, was one of the country's best-known military figures, serving a long stint in the army before resigning in 1990 as supreme commander and army chief to join the Chatchai government. He formed the NAP after the February 1991 coup to contest the March 1992 election. The party scored a big success on its political debut by winning 72 House seats.

Chawalit, 61, graduated from the Chulachomklao Royal Military Academy and received honorary doctorates in law from Sipathum University, in science from Khon Kaen University and in arts from Srinakharinviroj University.

He was first elected an MP representing the suburban Nonthaburi province when he ran in the March 1992 election and won a House seat there again in the last poll in September last year. Chawalit served as an adviser to the prime minister in 1981 and was appointed a member of the Senate in 1983 and 1987. He briefly served in the Chatchai government as deputy prime minister and defence minister in 1990 before quitting under political pressure.

While army chief and supreme commander Chawalit gained much credit from the Green Isan programme which the army had introduced to develop the arid northeastern region.

Phaithun Kaeothong, Deputy Labour Minister

Phaithun Kaeothong, 57, is a veteran MP for Pichit province and served as a deputy industry minister in 1988. A New Aspiration MP has stood successfully five times for a seat in Pichit—first in 1975 then in 1979, 1986, 1988, and March and September 1992. In 1986 he was a deputy secretary to the interior minister and in 1988 he became a deputy industry minister. Phaithun was educated at the Engineering Faculty of Chulalongkorn University.

Soemsak Karun, Deputy Labour Minister

Soemsak Karun, 50, a Rayong MP for the New Aspiration Party. He was a member of the National Assembly set up by the National Peacekeeping Council in 1990. Soemsak has been elected four times—in 1983, 1986, 1988 and March 1992. In 1986 Soemsak took office as a deputy secretary to the science minister, and in 1988 became the secretary to the Prime Minister's Office minister. Two years later he was an adviser of the prime minister and the government spokesman. Soemsak graduated from the Sakori Nakhon Bachelor College in agricultural technology.

Phinit Charusombat, Dep Communications Minister

The Seritham Party apparently owed Phinit Charusombat for getting them into the Chuan II coalition. Phinit is reported to have worked closely with leading members of the Democrat Party over the invitation while Seritham leader Athit Urairat kept his distance from the negotiations.

Phinit, a former student activist who played a leading role in the Oct 14 uprising in 1973, failed when he first stood for election a few years ago. At 42, he made his parliamentary debut as a Nong Khai MP in the March 22 elections last year, running as a Samakkhitham Party candidate. He followed Athit into the new Seritham Party, formed before the Sept 13 general elections, and was re-elected.

Anek Thapsuwan, Dep Communications Minister

Anek, 56, a Democrat Party deputy leader, is a veteran politician who has been elected an MP for several terms from his Samut Sakhon stronghold. Anek has stood for election only under the Democrat Party's banner.

Before serving as deputy public health minister in the Chuan I government, Anek was deputy communications minister in the Chatchai government in 1989 and assistant secretary-general to the prime minister in 1986. He was also appointed secretary to the public health minister in 1983.

Anek was born in Samut Sakhon in 1937 and passed out from Samaut Sakhon School receiving a junior high-school certificate. He was first elected a member of Parliament from his home province in 1976 and later in 1979, 1983, 1986 and 1992. In 1977, Anek was a member of the military Administrative Reform Council and later served as a political official in the Prime Minister's Office in 1979.

Sawai Phatthano, Justice Minister

Sawai Phatthano, 59, is a veteran politician but is not now an MP. Sawai has been elected a Songkhla MP for the Democrats four times—first in 1975, then in 1979, 1983 and 1986. From 1981 to 1983 he was an adviser of the

prime minister and from 1986 to 1989 served as a deputy interior minister taking over from Veera Musikapong who had to stand down following his conviction on a charge of lese majeste.

He was educated at the Faculty of Law, Thammasart University, and has worked as a lawyer in Hat Yai district, Songkla province. Sawai has been praised by other members of parliament as an example of virtuosity in an MP.

Chaloemphon Sanitwongchai, Deputy Commerce Minister

Chaloemphon Sanitwongchai, 55, is an Udon Thani MP and a member of the New Aspiration Party. He was first elected to Parliament in 1976, then again in 1979 1986 and March and September 1992. In 1979 he was deputy secretary to the education minister. Chaloemphon graduated from the Sakon Nakhon Bachelor College in Agriculture.

Editorial Blasts Labor Minister Appointment

BK2409031393 Bangkok THE NATION in English 24 Sep 93 p 6

[Editorial: "Public witnesses ultimate failure of leadership"]

[Text] First reports that Interior Minister Gen [General] Chawalit Yongchaiyut would concurrently assume the new labour portfolio sounded like a joke. Not only was the action unthinkable, it also defied the sanity which the public believed existed within the government leadership, despite its past failings.

When the whole picture became clear yesterday—the end result of two weeks of political haggling—it could only be summed up as an unspeakable affront to all of us. If Chawalit is really that competent, then Prime Minister Chuan Likphai should probably step down to allow him take the helm of the state. But we know that is not the case.

Moreover, it is immaterial whether Chawalit ends up holding the labour post only temporarily, until he clears up the mess within his New Aspiration Party [NAP]. His inability to maintain firm control over his party members is, sad to say, a major leadership failure. That flaw, however, is not limited to the NAP.

This distressing factor, we are afraid, is gradually becoming a hallmark for the Chuan administration. An almost laughable aspect is also that Wira Musikaphong, the first deputy leader of NAP, failed miserably to win the respect and acceptance of party members who opposed his aspiration to become labour minister.

A leader rejected by his own party followers would certainly have difficulties in taking command of a ministry. It also means that Wira should seriously question whether he had truly earned the deputy party leadership in the first place.

The agony of his defeat, however, could have been avoided. If Wira had rejected the offer of the labour portfolio right from the beginning, citing his non-MP status, he would have appeared to be a more respectible politician. What finally put him in this embarrassing situation was his yearning for a Cabinet post after a five-year ban on his taking part in politics, as a result of his loose tongue during an election campaign.

We all know that Chawalit has been having a tough time in running the Interior portfolio. At times, he seemed to have been buried under an avalanche of problems. His performance has been lacklustre and disappointing. A series of crises which cropped up to challenge his competence have yet to be tackled to the satisfaction of the public. Now he has the nerve to bite off far more than he can chew. The public must have wondered in disbelief upon hearing him comment that he had no worries in taking charge of the Interior and Labour ministries simultaneously. A man should know his own limits. His decision seems to represent the lack of a sense of proportion and sensitivity to the needs of the public.

Chawalit was audacious enough to opt for this implausible solution. How could he and NAP members think that the public would be naive enough to condone his myopic decision. Did he genuinely believe that there would not be public resentment over this shoddy arrangement?

This is definitely a self-destructive political ritual. It shows the public that Chawalit cannot be entrusted with handling national affairs any more than he can manage affairs within his conflict-ridden party. At times, a bad choice looks better than a gutless compromise.

No doubt the ultimate responsibility lies with Prime Minister Chuan himself. As Cabinet leader, Chuan should have never allowed this to happen. We already know that he prefers a hands-off managerial style, ducking direct responsibility and confrontation with other coalition partners when the situation allows him to do so. But we never imagined the extent to which Chuan would be plagued by this weakness.

This is inexplicably self-destructive for the prime minister. Maybe he is too much in the air for Democrat Party members to point at this political pitfall. Maybe the Democrat MPs themselves are too timid to confront Chuan with this potentially discreditable act of compliance. How would a true political leader have acted in this circumstance? The person would have immediately summoned Chawalit to take some firm orders—he must not assume the two posts concurrently, even temporarily. If the interior minister could not find an alternative, then the prime minister would have to make the choice. Unfortunately, Chuan has obviously decided not to confront the interior minister, possibly fearing that he might provoke the ire of the ex-army chief.

What hope is there for the public which probably had expected too much? This could be the last straw for public patience towards the Democrat-led coalition. The lack of leadership at the top is much too obvious this time. But then again maybe nobody even cares, because this quality of true leadership may have been absent right from the start.

Article Examines Thai-Russian Ties

BK2409030593 Bangkok THE NATION in English 24 Sep 93 p A6

[Article by Kawi Chongkitthawon: "Moscow-Bangkok ties with a future view"]

[Text] With the end of Cold War, Russia views Thailand as an important country, crucial for its long-term and broad strategy to strengthen its ties with Southeast Asia. At the same time, Moscow has paid special attention to Thailand's economic development and defence strategy. The Russian leaders are eager to learn from Thailand in the hope they could forge closer links with Thai leaders leading to mutual trust and confidence.

Moscow hopes that in fostering Russian-Thai ties, the sale of Russian arms inventories including non-military civil engineering hardware to Bangkok could be facilitated. These are new thinkings emerging in Moscow dictated partly by Thailand's growing regional and international role and Russia's domestic crisis.

A senior Russian Foreign Ministry official said that Moscow is planning to invite all the top Thai military leaders including the commander-in-chiefs of all the armed forces and the supreme commander to visit Moscow in November.

Army Chief Gen Wimon Wongwanit visited Moscow recently and was reportedly impressed by the Russian arsenals. He did not make any commitment as the Chuan government and the armed forces presently have no policy of purchasing Russian arms. However, that has not stopped Russia from trying to bring Thai leaders closer to Moscow. In the process, Russia hopes that Thailand would be interested in the short-term of what it can offer, especially civil engineering items such as collapsable bridges and earth moving tractors.

With the sale of these "dual-propose" [as published] products with military applications, Russian leaders hope it would be the first step eventually leading the Thais to purchase the Russian arms.

The same Russian official said that Moscow views Thailand's consideration of purchasing arms from the country as an economic issue rather than a political or strategic matter, unlike the case of Malaysia.

Kuala Lumpur announced recently that it would procure 18 Russian-made MiG advanced aircrafts. At the same time, it also said it would purchase the US-made F-18 aircrafts. "It is sensible for Thailand to consider the Russian arms from the economic point of view now rather than in the future," said the official, who spent four years in Thailand and is now monitoring Asean affairs.

During Wimon's visit, Russia offered to sell 200 tanks at a special price under special payment arrangements. Included in the package is the establishment of a maintenance and repair centre in Thailand.

This week, the 200-member delegation from Russia headed by First Deputy Commander-in-Chief of the Air Force Zarudnev Evgeni Pavlovich, will visit the Thai Air Show 93, to present an exclusive preview of the performances of six MiG 29 jetfighters.

At first glance, it might seem that Russia's interest in Thailand is primarily aimed at future arms purchases. However, during Deputy Foreign Minister Surin Phitsuwan's visit to Moscow last week, the Russian Foreign Ministry officials including Deputy Foreign Minister Georgiy Kunadze reiterated that Russia wanted a serious relationship with Thailand. Moscow is sending Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev to Bangkok early next year ahead of the Asean Region Forum which will be hosted by Bangkok some time next June.

Surin has also expressed strong support of Russia's initiatives made in May during the consultative meeting in Singapore that call for the establishment of a conflict preventing centre in the Asia-Pacific and an Asia-Pacific strategic research centre.

Russia also suggested several areas of joint ventures between Asean and Russia such as shipbuilding and port management, fishing and processing raw materials, among others. The Russian official said these are the first concrete Russian proposals, which involve the region and Russia, which has been taken seriously by the Asean countries. In the past, the former Soviet Union had made several proposals on confidence-building measures, but they fell on deaf ears.

Surin said Russia sees the importance of Thailand, especially as the Asean chairman this year, to put forward its long-term objectives in the region. As both a European and Asian power, Surin said Russia naturally views Thailand with its geographical location and economic development as an indispensable part of its regional strategy. The minister said Thailand is the only country in Southeast Asia that really has a traditional ties with Russia. King Chulalongkorn used Russia to balance the influence and pressure asserted by both France and the British empire during their colonial quest.

Thailand views Russia's renewed interest in the region as a stabilizing factor in the eventuality of any major power shifts in Southeast Asia. To emphasis this special Thai-Russian ties, Surin said both countries are preparing to celebrate the centennial celebration of Thai-Russian relations in a big way. Next October, the city of St Petersburg will exhibit in Thailand for the first time documents signed and artifacts used by King Chulalongkorn during his two visits to Russia at the end of 19th century. Both Moscow and Bangkok are now working on activities and programmes that would commemorate this special occasion.

Views 'Debt Factor'

BK2209052393 Bangkok THE NATION in English 22 Sep 93 p A6

[Article by Kawi Chongkitthawon: "The Debt Factor in Thai-Russian Ties"]

[Text] Thailand is risking its future ties with Russia by insisting on the repayment of US$263 million the country owes due to rice purchases made since 1991.

The debt issue took a new twist coupled with strong political overtones when the two Thai deputy prime ministers—Amnuai Wirawan supported by the New Aspiration Party and Suphachai Phanichaphak by the Democrat Party—expressed interest to work out ways to settle this outstanding amount. Amnuai, who is in charge of domestic economic policy, is scheduled to arrive here next week to meet his Russian counterpart Aleksandr Shokin, with whom he hopes to strike a repayment deal. Amnuai's advance team led by Deputy Permanent Secretary for Commerce Kroekkrai Chiraphaet, was in Moscow last week and immediately began discussions with his Russian counterpart, to work out acceptable ways to settle this debt.

At first, Suphachai planned to meet up with deputy Foreign Minister Surin Phitsuwan, now currently in Moscow, to follow up on the issue. However, the plan did not materialize and now the deputy prime minister, is planning another trip to Moscow in the near future, to tackle the debt problem.

During the meeting with Surin, Russian Deputy Minister for Foreign Economic Relations Ivan Sergeyevich Meterov reiterated that Russia is determined to repay the debt with Thailand and regarded it as a top priority.

There were some speculations in the past week here, that Russia was prepared to pay off US$16 million, as a first payment, to end all the fuss and whatever embarrassment Russia is in right now. Russia is the only country that owes money to Thailand. Like it or not, the debt issue has increasingly put a strain on Thai-Russian ties and it has been quickly symbolized as a thorn in bilateral ties, which Bangkok tried to rejuvenate after the demise of the former Soviet Union.

Thailand's insistence on the debt repayment has failed to take into consideration the mammoth problem Russia is facing in paying back its external debts, which has today has reached a whooping US$91.7 billion. Beginning this year, Russia has to spend more than 50 per cent of its export revenues on servicing its external debt.

Discussions with Thai officials from the Bank of Thailand, the Commerce and Foreign Ministries, indicated thal there was some sympathy toward Russia's debt problem. But they said the Thai government would need a clear policy and objective as to what was expected from long-term Thai-Russian ties.

One of them said that the US$263 million debt is a minute amount compared to what Russia owes other countries. On the other hand, he added, developing countries, Third World nations and also the Commonwealth of Independent States owe Russia about US$47 billion. He said it was more sensible for Thailand to reschedule the Russian debt, rather than to demand immediate repayment. At the moment however, the Thai government wants at least US$16 million out of US$63 million debt, to be settled first by cash, with the remaining US$47 million to be rescheduled further. Apparently, the Thai government views the partial debt payment by Russia now as one of the measures to increase the confidence of Thai businessmen. During the discussion last week between Kroekkrai and his Russian counterparts, further alternatives were discussed.

Russia can pay back some of the debt due by cash and the rest with Russian-made products. The last alternative, which must be decided by the Thai government, is the plan to reschedule all the debt further. Another official said it is possible that the cash paid by Russia will be used as a revolving fund to purchase Thai rice in the future.

Whatever the outcome of Amnuai's visit, the future of Thai-Russian relations must not be held hostage by the debt issue. Russia is moving towards the consolidation of its political and economic systems, despite its looming domestic crisis.

Russia is an important regional player and can play a constructive role in Asean's effort to design a regional security framework. As the Asean chairman, Thailand has to deal with Russia, which will participate in the coming Asean Regional Forum to be held next year.

Pragmatically, it is better for Thailand to show goodwill to Russia—to settle the debt issue with favourable terms for Russia—now when Moscow is in despair rather than when it has minimized the economic chaos. By that time, nothing would be left for both sides to build on the much-need Thai-Russian ties.

Air Force Chief Confirms U.S. Weapons Purchase

BK2309020193 Bangkok THE NATION in English 23 Sep 93 p A4

[Text] Air Force Commander in Chief ACM [Air Chief Marshal] Kan Phimanthip confirmed yesterday that American communications giant Westinghouse had won the Bt6 billion Royal Thai Air Defense System Phase 111 (RTADS 111) project.

Gun was speaking at the opening of Thai Airshow '93 at Kamphaeng Saen in Nakhon Pathom province. He said the Westinghouse bid of US$180 million (Bt4.5 billion) had been recommended ahead of a rival $162 million bid submitted by Hughes Corp, also a huge American defence contractor. Additional to the contractor's price is Bt1.5 billion worth of ground work to be carried out by the RTAF [Royal Thai Air Force].

Sources familiar with the deal say that it must be finalized before the military reshuffle comes into effect at the end of this month. They said chief of staff ACM Samat Sotsathit and deputy commander Suthep Theppharak, both of whom are to move sideways in the reshuffle, supported the Westinghouse bid.

They added that Kan had avoided the heavy lobbying for the contract. He had delegated authority to decide on the winner to other staff. The sources said that commissions of up to Bt5OO million, or 12 per cent of the bid price, will be paid to interests associated with Thai Communications Co, Westinghouse's de facto agent in Thailand.

RTADS III is the second phase of a national satellite-linked weapons guidance and control system. The main radar component will be sited in Surat Thani and smaller units will be at Koh Samui Phuket and Hat Yai. As well as monitoring civilian and military aircraft, the Surat Thani installation will form a back-up to the RTADS I central command at Don Muang.

Being a security issue, the funding for the project has bypassed the normal screening processes. Sources claim that the prime minister's "special" budget will be used. The National Security Council has endorsed the project, but it is only involved from a technical-need point.

Included in the Westinghouse bid, the sources said, is its W-2100 radar, worth about $50 million, which has not yet been built or certified. They said the Defence Ministry had previously announced the armed forces would only purchase proven equipment. The company claims it has installed an identical radar at Mount Laguna, California, for the IJS Federal Aviation Authority. Some sources say, however, that the radar is for civilian use and forms part of the ARSR-4 project, a forerunner to the W-2100.

The sources also question the computer software proposed, especially the ADA language component. This is mostly used for military operations of this nature, but the sources say Westinghouse has yet to show either a proven capability or obtain the necessary certification.

Hughes Corp, represented by Siam Teltech Co, alleges that the two radars it submitted, independently made by Marconi Systems and General Electric Corp, are fully certified and proven.

Vietnam

Indian Vice President Continues Official Visit

Meets Nguyen Thi Binh

BK2409081193 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1100 GMT 23 Sep 93

[Text] In the morning of 23 September at the Presidential Palace, Vice President Nguyen Thi Binh held talks with Indian Vice President Narayanan, who is on a official friendship visit to Vietnam.

Attending the talks on the Vietnamese side were Minister Nguyen Viet Dung, director of the Presidential Office; Dang Vu Chu, minister of light industry; Nguyen Dy Nien, deputy minister of foreign affairs; Ngo The Dan, deputy minister of agriculture and food industry; Phan Quang, vice chairman of the National Assembly Foreign Affairs Committee; and Vu Xuan An, ambassador to India.

On the Indian side were Aranachalam, minister of state for industry development; (Shaman Higer), secretary of the Foreign Ministry; and Malik, Indian ambassador to Vietnam.

At the talks, Vice President Nguyen Thi Binh heartily welcomed the Vietnam visit by Vice President Narayanan and the distinguished Indian guests. She recalled the fine tradition of friendship relations between Vietnam and India. She confirmed that this Vietnam visit by the Indian vice president is an important event contributing to the strengthening of the traditional relations of friendship and multilateral cooperation between the governments and peoples of Vietnam and India.

Vice President Nguyen Thi Binh briefed the Indian vice president on Vietnam's socioeconomic situation as well as on the important, initial achievements recorded by the Vietnamese people in their renovation and in the carrying out of a foreign policy of independence, sovereignty, and openness. She highly valued the results recorded by the Indian people in implementing their policy of economic reform. She welcomed India's foreign policy of peace, friendship, and cooperation with all nations, especially with neighboring countries in South Asia. She expressed her belief that India will play a great role in the cause of regional peace as well as in the formation of a new world order of democracy and justice.

The Vietnamese vice president expressed her joy at knowing that in the past years, especially after the India visit by Party General Secretary Do Muoi, the relations of friendship and multi-faceted cooperation between Vietnam and India have made developing steps. She emphasized that in the new international and regional situation and on a foundation of good relations and mutual trust in the political area, Vietnam and India need to further strengthen their economic, commercial, scientific, technological, and cultural cooperation in order to better serve the task of economic development in each country. This will meet the interests of the people in the two countries and be in the interests of peace, stability, and cooperation in the region.

Vice President Narayanan expressed his happiness at revisiting Vietnam after 30 years. He said that Vietnam is a beautiful country and the homeland of a heroic race, who were brave and steadfast in their struggle to regain independence and freedom. Now they are scoring great victories in national construction.

The visiting vice president highly valued Vietnam's correct and creative renovation line and the important achievements recorded by the Vietnamese people, especially in the economic field. He welcomed Vietnam's foreign policy of independence, openness, and diversified relations as well as Vietnam's efforts to strengthen relations with Southeast Asian nations and other countries, thus improving Vietnam's important role in regional peace and stability.

The Indian vice president outlined the policy of economic democratization and reform initiated by the government of Prime Minister Narasimha Rao, its encouraging results after more than two years of implementation, and India's foreign policy of peace and nonalignment.

Regarding relations between the two countries, he held that the two sides need to better exploit all of their national potentials in order to increase the volume of trade and joint venture cooperation in the construction of cement production plants; processing of agriculture products, sugar, and latex; and to accelerate cooperation in medium

and small industry, in which India has considerable experience. He confirmed that India is ready to expand its assistance to Vietnam in the training of scientific, technological, and business management cadres. Vice President Nguyen Thi Binh thanked the vice president, government, and fraternal people of India for their precious support and assistance to Vietnam's national construction and for aiding in the protection of the Vietnamese people, both now and in the past.

Vice President Nguyen Thi Binh and Vice President Narayanan also exchanged their views on international and regional issues of mutual concern as well as on directions for accelerating Vietnamese-Indian cooperation in the future.

The talks were held in an atmosphere of great friendship and warmth.

Delhi Reports on Meeting

BK2309101893 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 23 Sep 93

[Text] India and Vietnam have stressed the need for identifying new areas of cooperation, particularly in the field of mutual investments. The visiting vice president, Mr. K.R. Narayanan, and his Vietnamese counterpart, Madam Nguyen Thi Binh, held discussions in Hanoi today. Later, briefing newspersons, an official spokesman said that during the talks both the leaders underlined the need to overcome the hurdles in expanding India-Vietnamese relations. During the talks the minister of state for industry, Mr. M. Arunachalam, offered 30 scholarships for training Vietnamese entrepreneurs in India. The vice president paid rich tributes to the Vietnamese people for their achievements after the ravages of war. Mr. Narayanan promised continued assistance to Vietnam for its dairy development program.

Sharing Mr. Narayanan's keenness to increase bilateral economic cooperation, Madam Nguyen Thi Binh said a Vietnamese trade delegation led by the finance minister will visit India shortly.

23 Sep Activities Outlined

BK2409060293 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 0500 GMT 23 Sep 93

[Text] Indian Vice President Narayanan and his wife, now on an official friendship visit to our country, paid a floral tribute to President Ho Chi Minh at his mausoleum this morning. The delegation was accompanied by Nguyen Viet Dung, head of the Presidential Office. His Excellency Narayanan, his wife, and other distinguished Indian guests also visited President Ho Chi Minh's residence and office.

Vice President Nguyen Thi Binh held talks with Vice President Narayanan at 1000 this morning. Nguyen Viet Dung, head of the Presidential Office; Dang Vu Chu, minister of Light Industry; Phan Quang, deputy head of the National Assembly External Affairs Commission; and some other high-ranking cadres participated in the talks for the Vietnamese side.

Vo Van Kiet Receives Narayanan

BK2309152793 Hanoi VNA in English 1517 GMT 23 Sep 93

[Text] Hanoi VNA Sept. 23—Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet received this afternoon Indian Vice President K.R. Narayanan now on an official friendship to Vietnam. Prime Minister Kiet hailed the Indian vice president's visit as a significant event in the promotion of the mutual understanding and the development of the cooperative and friendly relations between the two countries.

On behalf of the Vietnamese Government and people, Prime Minister Kiet expressed his sincere thanks to the Indian Government and people's assistance and support. He also informed his guests of the renovation process in Vietnam and expressed his wishes for further development of the fine relationship between the two countries.

For his part, Indian Vice President Narayanan affirmed that the Indian Government and people will always be on the Vietnamese people's side and assured that besides economic cooperation, India will help Vietnam in scientific and technical development, personnel training and infrastructioral construction.

Also present at the reception were Head of the President's Office Nguyen Viet Dung, Deputy Foreign Minister Nguyen Dy Nien, Vietnamese Ambassador to India Vo Xuan Ang and Indian Ambassador to Vietnam S.L. Malik.

Earlier this morning, Vice President Narayanan and his party paid a floral tribute to President Ho Chi Minh at his mausoleum and visited his home and office.

Leaders Attend Ceremony To Present Orders

BK2209060393 Hanoi Vietnam Television Network in Vietnamese 1200 GMT 20 Sep 93

[Text] The Second General Department under the Ministry of National Defense recently organized a ceremony in Hanoi to receive Independence Order First Class, Independence Order Second Class, and Military Exploit Order Third Class from the state.

Attending the ceremony were Comrade Nguyen Thi Binh, vice president of the State of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam [SRV]; Comrade Vu Oanh, member of the Political Bureau and secretary of the party Central Committee; Comrade Nguyen Duc Binh, member of the Political Bureau and secretary of the party Central Committee; Comrade General Doan Khue, member of the Political Bureau and minister of national defense; and representatives of a number of government agencies, ministries, departments, and sectors at the central level.

On behalf of the state, Comrade Nguyen Thi Binh pinned Independence Order First Class on the determined-to-win army flag. Speaking on this occasion, Vice President Nguyen Thi Binh said: Over the past 48 years, thanks to Uncle Ho's wholehearted care and direction as well as to the party's leadership, including the direct guidance of the party Central Committee Military Commission and the Ministry of National Defense, cadres and soldiers of all

generations of the Second General Department (formerly the Research Department) under the Ministry of National Defense have worked untiringly and have spared no sacrifices, overcoming numerous difficulties and challenges and scoring great achievements in the wars of resistance and in the national renovation undertaking. She expressed the hope that cadres and soldiers of the Second General Department would continue to develop their glorious traditions and make even greater contributions in the national revolutionary cause.

Vu Oanh on Renovation of Mass Mobilization Work

BK2209100393 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1000 GMT 21 Sep 93

[From the press review program]

[Text] In today's issue, NHAN DAN frontpages the first part of an article by Comrade Vu Oanh, member of the Political Bureau and director of the Central Mass Mobilization Department, entitled "Let's Continue To Renovate the Party-Initiated Mass Mobilization Work in the New Situation."

In the first part of his article, the author points out the need to improve relations between the party and people to meet new challenges. As far as mass mobilization work is concerned, there is room for improvement in relations between the party and people now that the party has assumed power on a national scale and the law-governed state belongs to the people. These achievements are the fruit of the protracted revolutionary struggle and the sacrifices in terms of the people's blood and bones.

At present, the cause of national defense and construction, the task of building the administration and national defense and security forces, and the socioeconomic development task still remain to be done by the people. As far as mass mobilization work is concerned, it is necessary to fully grasp the people's important role, bearing in mind the fact that instead of regarding them as passive elements who need to be ruled or told what to do, we must let the people know, discuss, implement, and supervise. It is necessary to clearly understand that all power belongs to the masses and that the people come first.

As far as our country is concerned, current foreign relations create new opportunities and also pose new challenges. As the end of the 20th century is drawing near, the world is full of changes. The old world order is turned upside down and a new world order is in the making. The scientific and technological revolution has led to fast-breaking developments and new achievements in computers, electronics, data processing, and biology, thus contributing to stimulating the economic growth rate and to bringing production to a very high level of development.

Basically, our party-initiated renovation line conforms with the real situation in our country and wins the people's hearts and minds. It is also consistent with the new trends of world development. These facts have been substantiated by time, and the effective results shown in many fields.

Nong Duc Manh Receives Cadre School Delegtion

BK2209154293 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 2300 GMT 21 Sep 93

[Text] Comrade Nong Duc Manh, member of the party Central Committee Political Bureau and chairman of the National Assembly, cordially met with a delegation of teachers and students of a refresher course of the Bac Thai Provincial Cadres Training School at the Ba Dinh Conference Hall on the afternoon of 21 September.

Comrade Truong Van Hue, vice director of the school and head of the delegation, reported to Chairman Nong Duc Manh on the contents of the refresher course program such as those on government administration, economic management, or knowledge of the state and the law.

Cordially addressing the delegation, Chairman Nong Duc Manh praised Bac Thai for its active efforts to provide additional training to cadres while the country is under its renovation process. He said:

The village is a geographical and administrative unit of paramount importance under the state and administrative system, where cadres are in daily contact with peasants.

Chairman Nong Duc Manh urged the students to strive to grasp the skills on how to manage and operate grass-roots establishments in accordance with the law.

The chairman wished the refresher course success and hoped that each student, after finishing his course, would become an exemplary grass-roots cadre, capable of taking the lead in building the administration, developing village-level economy, and helping the people achieve the target of fighting poverty and hunger. By doing so they would be deserving of being a cadre in the service of the people and the fatherland, and a cadre of the people, for the people, and by the people.

Nguyen Duc Binh Attends Ceremony for Newspaper

BK2409033493 Hanoi Vietnam Television Network in Vietnamese 1200 GMT 22 Sep 93

[Text] The VIET NAM DAU TU NUOC NGOAI is a newspaper which was started at a time when the country's economic renovation was underway and when foreign investment was pouring in, which required better overseas propoganda. This newspaper has quickly become a paper with rich, precise and timely investment information, which effectively responds to demand from both domestic and foreign readers through its bilingual Vietnamese and English languages editions.

At present, the VIET NAM DAU TU NUOC NGOAI is published at a volume of 5,000 copies for the fortnightly edition in Vietnamese, and 7,000 copies for the weekly English paper. The VIET NAM DAU TU NUOC NGOAI is distributed not only domestically, but also widely to the world through its seven distribution centers in London, Paris, Los Angeles, Montreal, Sydney, Kuala Lumpur, and Hong Kong.

After two years in operation, the VIET NAM DAU TU NUOC NGOAI held a ceremony on 21 September to mark

the publication of its 100th edition. Attending the ceremony were Comrade Nguyen Duc Binh, member of the party Central Committee Political Bureau and secretary of the party Central Committee; Comrade Dau Ngoc Xuan, minister chairman of the Cooperation and Investment State Commission; and various representatives from concerned organizations.

Speaking at the ceremony, Comrade Nguyen Duc Binh highly praised the efforts of the editorial staff and the quality of the paper. He also affirmed that the VIET NAM DAU TU NUOC NGOAI is an important contribution to the overseas propaganda task and to the implementation of our country's open-door economic policy.

'High-Level' Talks Held With Lao Delegation

BK2209122393 Hanoi NHAN DAN in Vietnamese 16 Aug 93 pp 1, 4

[Text] According to a Vientiane-based Vietnam News Agency correspondent, the talks between the high-level Vietnamese and Lao National Assembly delegations took place on the morning of 16 August at the Lao National Assembly building.

Attending the talks on the Vietnamese side were Comrade head delegate Nong Duc Manh, member of the Political Bureau and chairman of the National Assembly; Comrade deputy head delegate Dang Quan Thuy, member of the party Central Committee and vice chairman of the National Assembly; Comrade Tran Van Phac, deputy director of the National Assembly's Foreign Relations Committee; Comrade Ly Tai Luan, deputy director of the National Assembly's Economy and Budget Committee; Comrade Trang A Pao, secretary of the Lao Cai Province party committee and National Assembly deputy from Lao Cai Province; Comrade Nguyen Nhu Vi, member of the Lao Cai Province party committee, secretary of the Vinh City party committee and concurrently chairman of the Vinh City people's council, and National Assembly deputy from Nghe An Province; Comrade Trieu Thi Nai, member of the National Assembly's Youth, Teenagers, and Children Committee and National Assembly deputy from Ha Giang Province; Comrade Pham Thanh Son, deputy director of the National Assembly Office; and Comrade Bui Van Thanh, our country's ambassador to Laos.

On the Lao side were Comrade head delegate Samane Viyaket, member of the Political Bureau and chairman of the National Assembly; Comrade deputy head delegate Khambou Sounisai, vice chairman of the National Assembly; Comrade Chaleun Yiapaoheu, member of the National Assembly's Standing Committee and general secretary of the National Assembly; Comrade Onchan Thammavong, chairwoman of the Laos Women's Union; Comrade Souphanthaheuangsi Saleumsak, deputy director of the National Assembly's Foreign Relations Committee; Comrade Bounthan Souvannasouk, deputy director of the National Assembly's Economy, Planning, and Finance Committee; Comrade Saman Souvannasao, deputy director of the National Assembly's Judiciary Committee; Comrade Major General Savai Sai-gnasena, National Assembly deputy; Comrade Maj. Gen. Saisompheng Souligngavong, National Assembly deputy; and Comrade Si Boulammavong, National Assembly deputy.

Lao National Assembly Chairman Samane Viyaket and Vietnamese National Assembly Chairman Nong Duc Manh informed each other about the implementation of each country's socioeconomic development tasks and national defense and security arrangements as well as the foreign policies and diplomatic activities of the two states and National Assemblies.

The two sides devoted much time to exchanging experiences in organizing the activities of National Assembly committees and people's councils at all levels.

Chairman Nong Duc Manh and Chairman Samane Viyaket asserted that at present, the two parties, National Assemblies, governments, and peoples are continuing to implement the agreements reached by the two Political Bureaus to further strengthen the special friendship and solidarity as well as the comprehensive cooperation between the two countries. Regarding relations with Cambodia, the two sides concurred with the need to respect and implement the Paris agreement on Cambodia as well as respect the Cambodian people's independence and sovereignty. They expressed their desire to see Cambodia become a peaceful, neutral, and nonaligned nation which maintains friendly relations with all countries.

Chairman Nong Duc Manh emphatically pointed out that it is Vietnam's foreign policy to promote peace and friendship; broaden relations and cooperation with all countries in the world regardless of their political and social systems; refrain from intervening into each country's internal affairs; respect the principles of equality and mutual benefits; strengthen solidarity, friendship, and cooperation with neighboring countries; and positively support and contribute to the world people's common struggle for peace, national independence, democracy, and social progress. It is the Vietnamese state's policy to resolve disputes through negotiations and positively contribute to promoting peace, stability, and cooperation with neighboring countries and Southeast Asian nations for the sake of peace and security in the region and other parts of the world.

Chairman Nong Duc Manh wished the special friendship and cooperation between Vietnam and Laos constant development. He expressed the hope that the cooperation and mutual assistance between the two National Assemblies would continue to be strengthened and developed with each passing day.

On this occasion, Chairman Nong Duc Manh invited Chairman Samane Viyaket to visit Vietnam. Chairman Samane Viyaket accepted the invitation with pleasure.

The talks took place in an atmosphere of cordiality, openness, straigthwardness, and mutual understanding.

Press Communique Issued

BK2309085193 Hanoi NHAN DAN in Vietnamese 20 Aug 93 pp 1, 3

["Text" of press communique released on 19 August in Vientiane]

[Text] A high-level delegation of the National Assembly of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam [SRV] led by Comrade Nong Duc Manh, member of the Communist Party of Vietnam [CPV] Political Bureau and chairman of the SRV National Assembly, paid an official friendship visit to the Lao People's Democratic Republic [LPDR] from 15-19 August 1993 at the invitation of Comrade Saman Vi-gnaket, member of the Lao People's Revolutionary Party [LPRP] Political Bureau and chairman of the LPDR National Assembly.

While in Laos, the high-level Vietnamese National Assembly delegation laid wreaths at the Monuments of Unknown Lao Fallen Heroes and Heroines in Vientiane and Champassak Province. The delegation also toured a number of economic and cultural establishments in Vientiane and Saravane Province. On those occasions, the delegation was accorded a very cordial, warm, and solemn reception by the fraternal Lao people of different ethnic groups.

Comrade Khamtai Siphandon, chairman of the LPRP Central Committee and prime minister of the LPRD Government, and Comrade Nouhak Phoumsavan, member of the LPRP Central Committee Political Bureau and president of the LPDR, cordially met and held talks with the Vietnamese National Assembly delegation. National Assembly Chairman Nong Duc Manh paid a courtesy call on Comrade Adviser Souphanouvong.

The high-level SRV National Assembly delegation led by Comrade Nong Duc Manh, member of the party Central Committee Political Bureau and chairman of the National Assembly, and the high-level LPDR National Assembly delegation led by Comrade Saman Vi-gnaket, member of the LPRP Central Committee Political Bureau and chairman of the LPDR National Assembly, held talks in an atmosphere of comradeship, fraternity, and complete mutual understanding and trust.

The two sides informed each other of the renovation process in each country and exchanged views on measures to consolidate and further develop the all-around cooperation between the two supreme organs of power of the Vietnamese and Lao states, as well as discussing international and regional issues of common concern.

Chairman Nong Duc Manh and Chairman Saman Vi-gnaket noted with pleasure that the Vietnamese and Lao peoples have always cherished and constantly developed the special traditions of solidarity and mutual support and assistance in the struggle for national independence as well as in the cause of national construction and defense, both in the interest of the two nations and for the sake of peace, stability, and development in Southeast Asia and other parts of the world.

On behalf of the Vietnamese National Assembly and people, Chairman Nong Duc Manh warmly welcomed and highly valued the achievements of the Lao people of different ethnic groups in the cause of national defense and construction, particularly in the task of constantly upholding the people's right of mastership, as clearly demonstrated by the results of the recent elections of the National Assembly's third session. Chairman Nong Duc Manh sincerely hoped that, under the leadership of the LPRP Central Committee headed by Comrade Khamtai Siphandon, the fraternal Lao people of different ethnic groups would continue to bring about even better achievements in implementing the Fifth party Congress resolution, which is designed to turn Laos into a peaceful, independent, democratic, unified, and prosperous country, and constantly enhance the LPDR's prestige and position in the region and the world.

On behalf of the Lao people of different ethnic groups, Lao National Assembly Chairman Saman Vi-gnaket expressed his joy at the initial yet very important achievements of the Vietnamese people in the framework of the comprehensive and far-reaching renovation process initiated by the CPV. He sincerely hoped that the Vietnamese people would bring about great achievements in implementing the Seventh CPV Congress Resolution aimed at developing Vietnam into a prosperous and powerful country as well as make a worthy contribution in the common struggle of the people of the world for peace, stability, national independence, democracy, social progress, and cooperation in Southeast Asia and other parts of the world.

National Assembly Chairman Nong Duc Manh and National Assembly Chairman Saman Vi-gnaket asserted the desire of the SRV and LPDR to continue broadening the friendly and cooperative ties with all nations on the principle of equality and mutual benefit and positively contributing to turning Southeast Asia into a region of peace, stability, cooperation, and development.

The two sides welcomed the results of the elections in Cambodia and affirmed their consistent policy of strictly implementing the Paris agreement on Cambodia. They expressed their desire to see Cambodia become a peaceful, neutral, and nonaligned nation which maintains friendly relations with all countries. The two sides also expressed concern over the Khmer Rouge, strongly condemning the continuation of their policy of terrorism and killing of Vietnamese nationals in Cambodia.

National Assembly Chairman Nong Duc Manh expressed his sincere and profound gratitude to the Lao National Assembly and people of different ethnic groups for the solemn and warm reception they had accorded to the Vietnamese delegation during its visit this time.

On behalf of the National Assembly, Chairman Nong Duc Manh invited Chairman Saman Vi-gnaket to pay an official friendship visit to Vietnam. Chairman Saman Vi-gnaket accepted the invitation with pleasure. The time of the visit will be decided through diplomatic channels.

Vientiane, 19 August 1993

Sweden Grants $10 Million Toward IMF Debt

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[Text] Hanoi VNA Sept. 24—The Swedish Government has decided a grant of 10 million US dollars to the Vietnamese Government to pay its debt to the International Monetary Fund (IMF), says a press release made available by the Swedish Embassy here yesterday.

The Swedish Government has reserved that sum in its budget for more than a year to joint international efforts in support of Vietnam to clear its IMF debt.